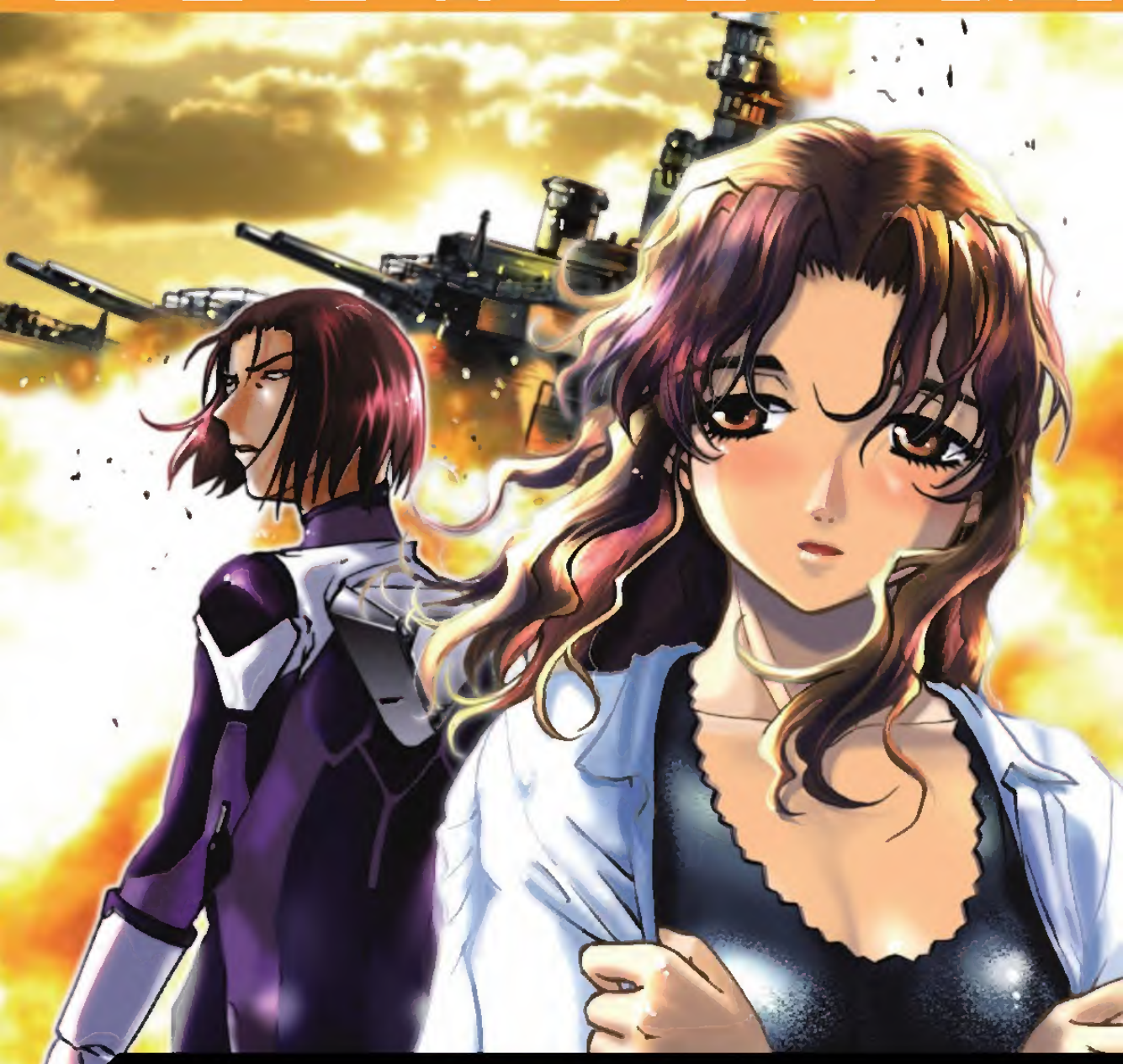
VIZ media
action

EXCEL SAGA

14



story and art by RIKDO KOSHI

EXCELSIOR

Behind this door, I see only women.



Behind this door, I'll pretend
I don't see anything. I don't see anything.




IT'S AN EXCEL SAGA ♥
DAIGEN
?

EXCEL SAGA 14

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

EXCEL SAGA 14

5. MISSION 1
FIRE ABOVE, FLOOD BELOW
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THUR., THUR., AND THUR.
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(EXCEL SAGA BONUS SECTION)

STORY AND ART BY
RIKDO KOSHI

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY
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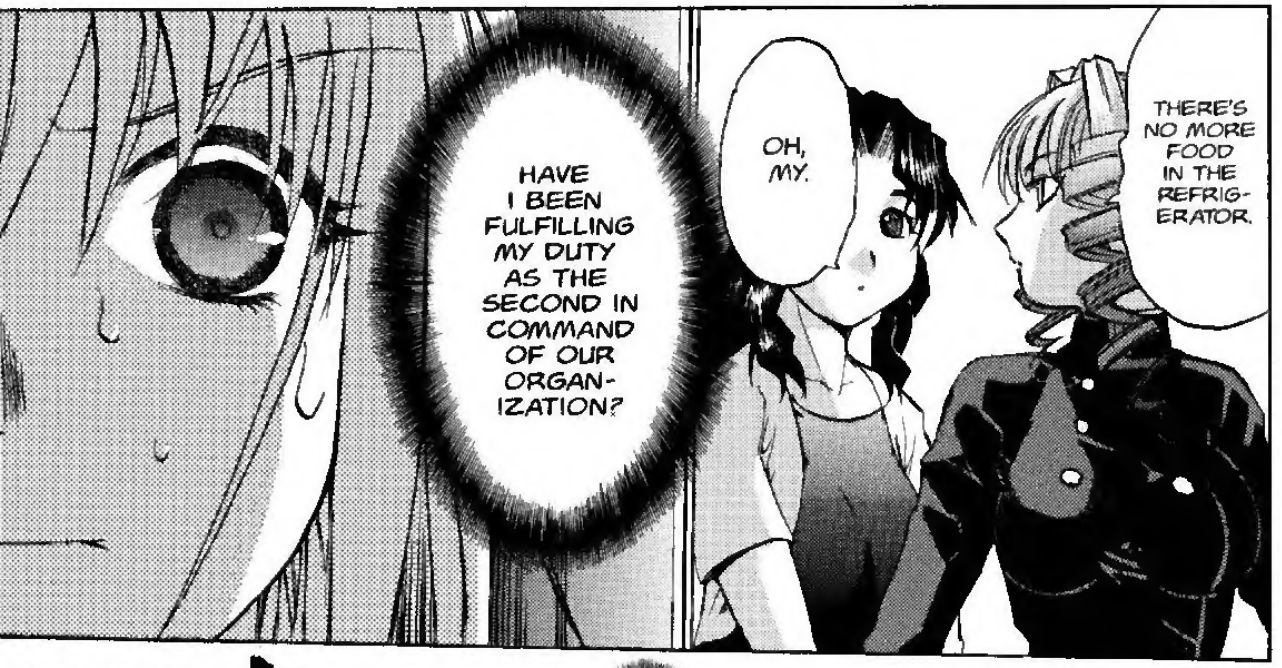
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RATED T TEEN
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXCEL SAGA is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. It contains fantasy violence and mature situations.


A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP!
WELL, ACTUALLY, THE ORIGINAL QUOTE FROM THE TAO TE CHING SAID "A THOUSAND LI," SO, THE LI BEING ONE THIRD OF A MILE, A JOURNEY OF 333.3 (REPEATING) MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP!
EVEN THREE SUCH STEPS WILL NEVER GET YOU TO A THOUSAND MILES! DO THE MATH! IT DOESN'T WORK OUT!
LIKE ANY HYPERPOWER, WE KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, WE HAVE COMPASSION FOR ALL MANKIND, AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE NEVER COMPROMISE!
FOR THE SAKE OF ACROSS'S IDEALS, WE SEEK TO KIDNAP AND DETAIN PEOPLE FOR SECRET INTERROGATION!
OH, LORD IL PALAZZO... FOR YOU, MY RENDITION WILL BE EXTRA-ORDINARY!


MISSION 1
FIRE ABOVE, FLOOD BELOW
So I swore...
...BUT I FAILED.


I WAS ORDERED TO ABDUCT THAT WOMAN AND BRING HER TO LORD IL PALAZZO, BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENED... I CHICKENED OUT AND FLUBBED THE MISSION.
SENIOR EXCEL?
SEN-IOR?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN LIKE A PUNK, MERELY BECAUSE SHE SPOKE IN A MENACING ROBOTIC VOICE AND SNAPPED ROPES AND SHRUGGED OFF TASER JOLTS AND CRUSHED...

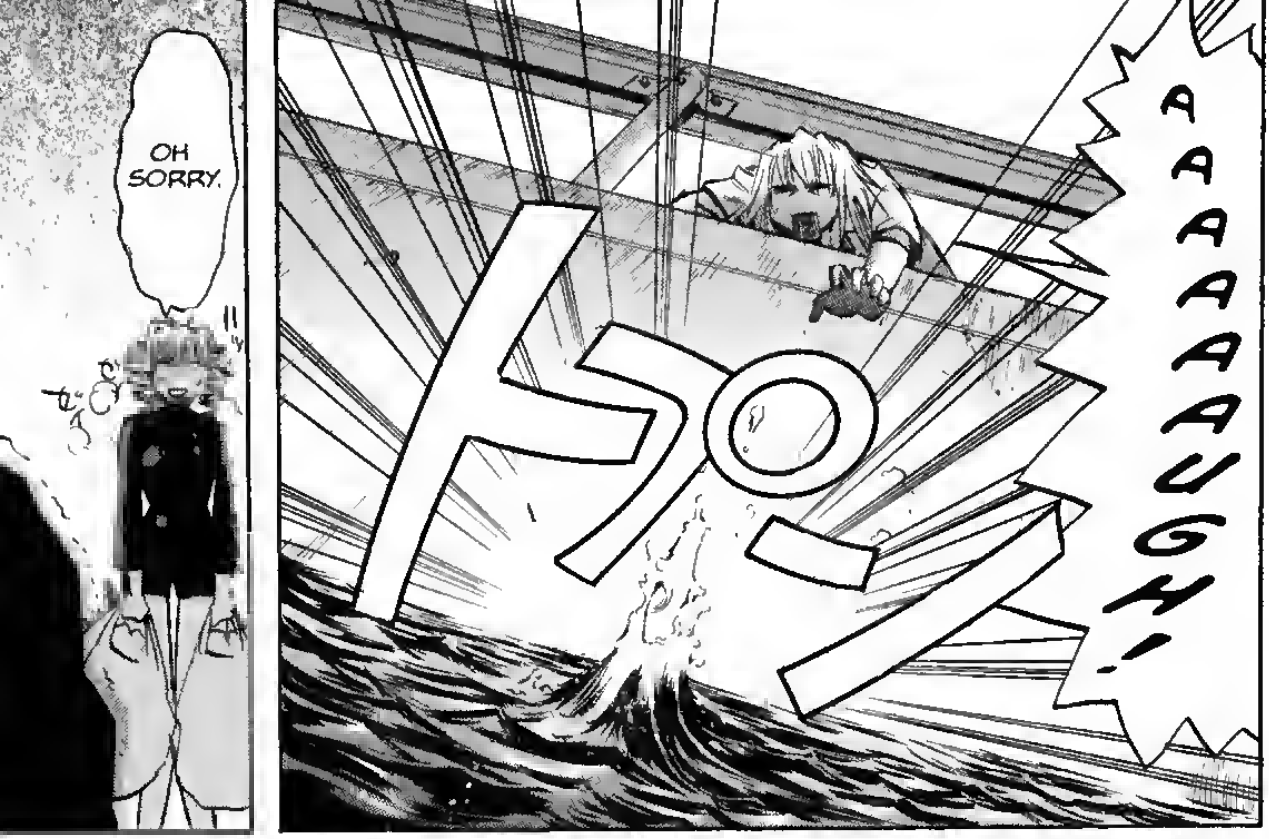

HAVE I BEEN FULFILLING MY DUTY AS THE SECOND IN COMMAND OF OUR ORGAN-IZATION?
OH, MY.
THERE'S NO MORE FOOD IN THE REFRIG-ERATOR.


NO! NO! THERE'S A LARGER ISSUE HERE!
ゴロゴロ
AND WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT DINNER?
SENIOR EXCEL, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT DINNER?


SENIOR HYATT, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS SENIOR EXCEL HAVING A SEIZURE?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. MY SENIOR IS PRUDENTLY CRADLING HER HEAD AS SHE ROLLS ABOUT ON THE FLOOR. HER THRASHINGS SHOULD SUBSIDE IN A COUPLE OF MINUTES.
I SOMETIMES THINK SENIOR HYATT HAS A COLD HEART. AM I WRONG?
SOUND ON
VERY WELL. I, ELGALA, WILL GO OUT AND BUY SOME FOOD FOR US.
WINK!
WE'LL HAVE SUKIYAKI... STEAK...
...BLUEFIN TUNA?
WAIT!
nifty
thrifty
orgy
LEVEL O' LUXURY


ELGALA!
NOW, YOU KNOW I DON'T TRUST YOU WITH OUR (GENERALLY SPEAKING, HA-CHAN AND MY OWN) HARD-EARNED MONEY!
WHAAAAAAT?
THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU CAN THINK TO SAY WHEN YOUR WITS RETURN?
HAW HAW HAW
AT ACROSS, BEFORE WE CONQUER THE WORLD, WE CONQUER PRICES!
BIG BOX RETAILERS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CRUSHING TRADITIONAL SOCIETY THROUGH GLOBAL-IZATION! I LIKE IT!
Do we always have to buy in bulk?


And vice versa.
Haw, haw, haw.
COULD THERE BE A HAPPIER MOMENT IN ONE'S LIFE THAN THIS, LORD IL PALAZZO?
PLUS, I FOUND A 100-YEN COIN ON THE STREET!
100
AFTER SUCH A STROKE OF LUCK, I FEEL LIKE HAVING ANOTHER GO AT ABDUCTION!
THAT'S RIGHT! I SHOULD BE COMING UP WITH A NEW PLAN, INSTEAD OF LETTING A BOOB LIKE ELGALA GET TO--


OH SORRY.
!!
AAAAUGH!


OH, THANK YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU SET THOSE BAGS DOWN, ELGALA?
YOU'RE RIGHT. IT WAS JUST 100 YEN, WASN'T IT?
I CAN REIMBURSE YOU WHEN WE GET BACK.
IT'S ONLY 100 YEN, SENIOR.
and these bags are so heavy


FREE YOUR ARMS JUST LIKE THAT.


Mean: def. 4b., low in value or amount! FIND THAT COIN, YOU GUTTER-SNIPE!
Mean: def. 3., miserly or stingy!
Y...YOU ARE SOOOOO MEAN!
BUT, SENIOR! THIS ACTUALLY IS A GUTTER!
DARN YOU AND YOUR INFERNAL VULCAN LOGIC.
...THE DAMAGE TO HER CLOTHES WILL COST AT LEAST 3000 YEN.
I'LL HEAR NO REBUKES TO MY DISCIPLINE!
BUT, SENIOR...
choke...
ALL RIGHT. I'LL HELP.
WHAT A USE-LESS...
I CAN'T FIND IT, SENIOR!
SNIFF! WHINE! SNIVEL!


OH, THANK YOU.
HEY, LOOK!
I'M SORRY. I LIED, SENIOR.
ACTUALLY, I FOUND IT A WHILE AGO.
HERE! HERE! JUST TAKE IT, SENIOR! SENIOR! PLEASE!
YOU (LITERALLY) FILTHY (COVERED IN) SCUM!


THEY FIGHT ALL THE TIME! YOU'RE AN HOUR LATE TO WORK BECAUSE YOU WATCHED TWO CATS FIGHT?
HUH?
I saw a catfight, like.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO CALL IT?
Nee scrubbaz these. Gaargeous lasses in a pagga. I mean they wuz really gaanin' at it.
Aye. An' they got well dorty.
...WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT, MISAKI?
APPARENTLY SOMEONE WAS SHOOTING A MUD WRESTING MOVIE.
I caanat wait t' watch it on hurm video.



I DON'T WANT TO!

SHAKE A LEG, STINKY! WE HAVE TO SEE OUR LORD RIGHT AFTER DINNER!




RIGHT, (hyatt) HA-CHAN, PLEASE TURN ON THE BATH.
OKAY.
PHEW.
PEE-YEW.
スタスタ
WHY DID I HAVE TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS MISERY FOR A DIRTY 100-YEN COIN?
IT WAS SHINY WHEN I FOUND IT!
AND CAN'T YOU LEARN TO STOP THINKING ALOUD? IT'S LIKE... I DUNNO, ESP FOR THE DEVELOP-MENTALLY DISABLED!
BUT, SENIOR... UNTREATED SEWAGE...
YOU LEARNED AN IMPORTANT LESSON TODAY.
POLLUTION IS AN ISSUE THAT AFFECTS US ALL.
...
?


HA-CHAN, IS THE BATH READY YET?
UM...
WELL...
I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S TAKING A LONG TIME.
HUHHHH?
ALL RIGHT. THE STENCH IS STARTING TO GET TO EVEN ME.
SENIOR HYATT, LET ME HELP.
I'M SURE I TURNED ON THE GAS SWITCH...
OH... THIS BATHROOM IS OLD.
JUST TURNING THE DIAL DOESN'T MAKE IT GO ON.
YOU HAVE TO SORT OF TURN IT UNTIL IT CLICKS.
LET ME SEE...
LIKE THIS?


10...
15...20...
SENIOR! THE BLOOD'S STILL SPURTING! SOB! IT'S LIKE A SPRINKLER WAVING GENTLY ON YOUR GARDEN WINDOW!
6...
7...!
2
3
1

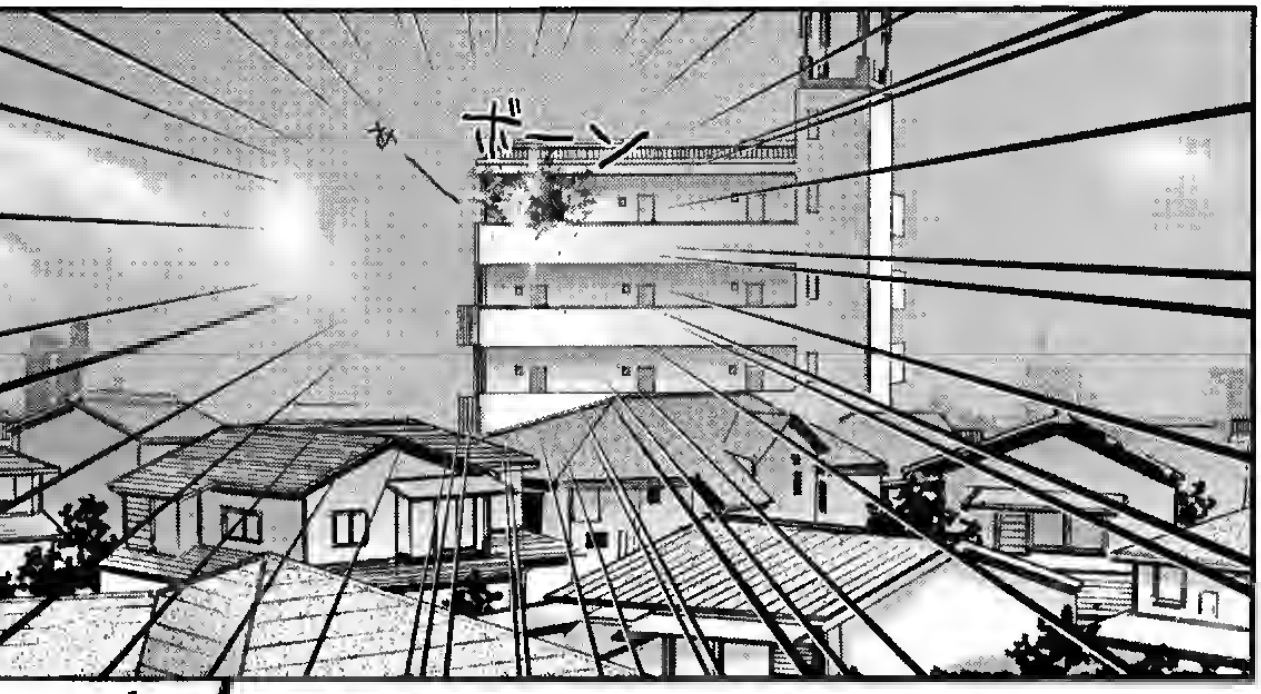

キャアアアアーッ
HYATT! ARE YOU, UH, ALL RIGHT?
DAMN IT! THE DOOR'S JAMMED!
NO! NO! DON'T OPEN IT, SEN-IOR!
I WANT TO REMEMBER HER THE WAY SHE ALWAYS WAS!
AH! HERE WE GO!
OH, GOD!
IT'S JUST WHAT I THOUGHT!


HA-CHAN, WHERE DO YOU KEEP IT ALL?
my ears are ringing...
HELLO, SENIOR.
HI, HA-CHAN!
SAY...
...WHAT'S THIS KINDA LEAKY, METHANE-Y SOUND?
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS SHUT IT OFF.
NO, THAT'S JUST YOU, ELGALA. ANYWAY, DON'T PANIC.
THE GAS! THE GAS!


7
The pipe... the pipe, Senior...
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT MAYBE YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT PANICKING. IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PANIC, IS IT?
WAIT! WHAT AM I SAYING? THERE'S STILL A WAY! GO SHUT OFF THE GAS MAIN!
YES, YES! UH... well...
オロ
オロ
OUTSIDE... BY THE DOOR... STUPID!

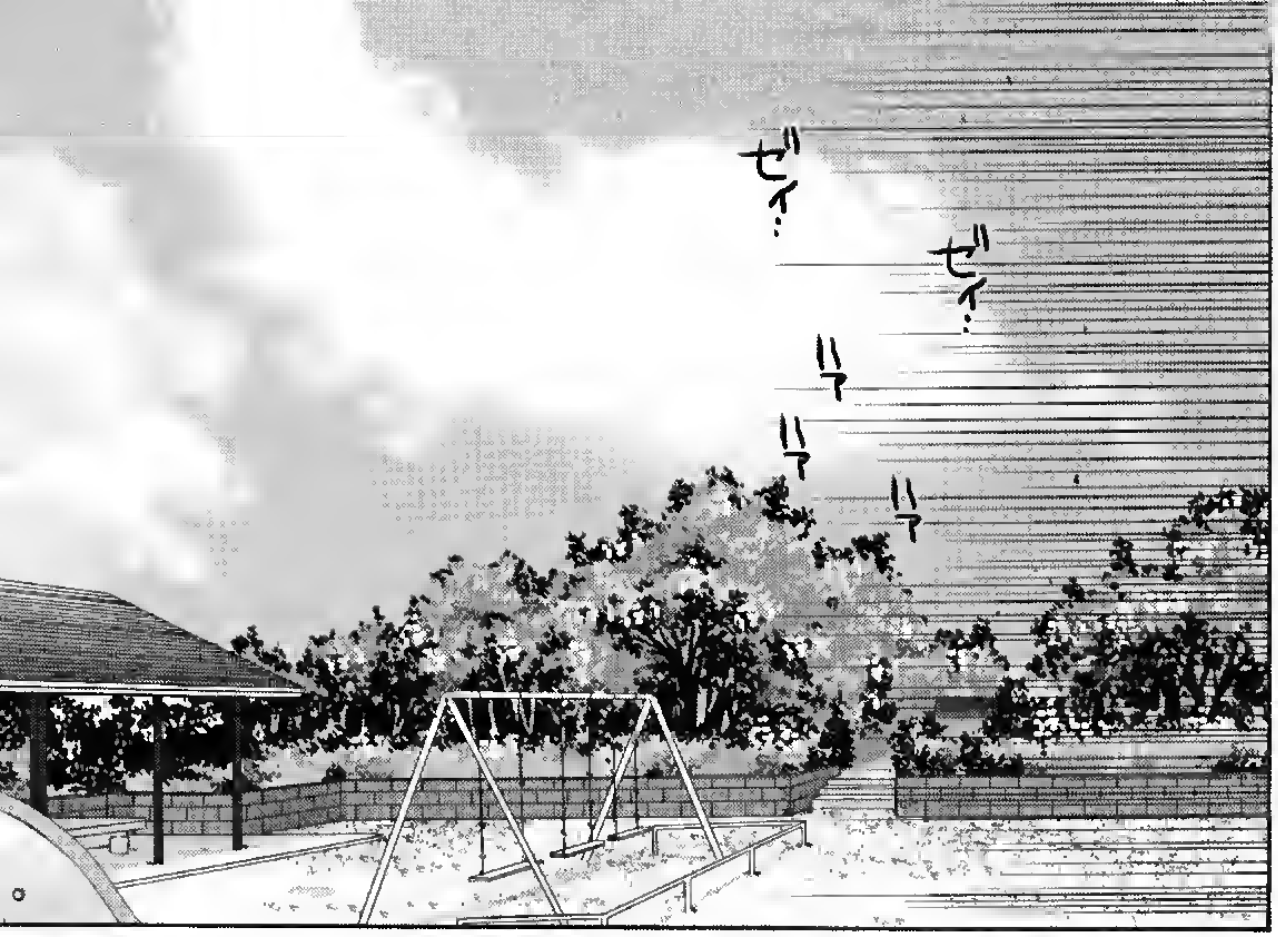

HERE!
WHERE?
WHERE?
05.4
sigh


sigh


ボーン


SENIOR EXCEL! SENIOR HYATT!
オオオオオ
SENIOR!
koff


GOOD ONE, ELGALA. SMOOTH LIKE BEATEN CREAM. NOW, PLEASE FOLLOW US OUT, BEFORE THE AUTHORITIES ARRIVE, AND START ASKING QUESTIONS WHICH WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ANSWER.
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO ABOUT!
KYAAAA
?
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I JUST FELT REALLY BAD ABOUT YOUR HAVING AVOIDED INJURY!
HELL... I STILL FEEL BAD!
WHAT DID I, ELGALA, DO TO DESERVE GETTING SMACKED?
HAHA


ゼイ…
ゼイ…
!?
!?
!?


OH... RIGHT...WE NEVER DID HAVE A BATH, DID WE? OR DINNER.
WHAT? ARE WE GOING TO BASE LOOKING LIKE THIS?


YEAH.
IF WE JUST SHOW UP IN THIS STATE, LORD IL PALAZZO WILL...
LOOK... SENIOR... WHY DON'T WE FIND A PLACE WHERE WE CAN WASH UP BEFORE WE GO?


WELL, WE'VE GOT THAT AFTER-DINNER MEETING WITH OUR LORD.
ALL RIGHT..
ALL RIGHT... WHAT'S NEXT...?
!?


I FOUND A PLACE.
...WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
キュキュッ
HMM?
...SENIOR.
SENIOR...


senior...
SEE... IT'S GOT... PUMICE IN IT...
...senior.
...SO ...IT GETS ALL THE...
THINKING OF THE NEEDS OF THE TEAM, AS USUAL!
OH, THIS? I GRABBED SOAP ON THE WAY OUT.
psst! ELGALA! THE MASSES! STOP CRYING!
...IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY, SENIOR!


All fixed!
Time to go home!
WHADDYA YOU WANT ME TO DO, HUH?
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... PLEASE LET US GO SOME PLACE WHERE WE CAN HAVE A BATH!
Hmm?
WE HAVE SOAP AND WATER RIGHT HERE. SO BATHE!
YOU ARE NOT REALLY A WOMAN, ARE YOU? I MEAN, DESPITE APPERANCES!
WOMAN... MAN...ISSUES OF GENDER IDENTITY CAN ONLY DIVIDE US! MY LOYALTY IS MY SEXUALITY! MY LOYALTY TO LORD IL PALAZZO! AND VICE VERSA!
I SAID, STOP CRYING!
These voice patterns...
...the big sisters I met the other day.
END MISSION 1


えんえん
えんえん
MAMA, BIG SISTER IS CRYING!
WHY IS BIG SIS CRYING?
DON'T CRY.
UH...
ELGALA.
SHE'S A GROWN-UP, BUT SHE'S CRYING
I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.


H-HEY, ELGALA... WHY DON'T YOU REGARD THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MASTER A NEW SURVIVAL SKILL? I AIN'T PROMISING NOTHING, BUT THERE COULD BE A MERIT BADGE IN IT FOR YOU.
WILL YOU STOP CRYING ?!
WHY ARE YOU SO ASHAMED? YES...BE ASHAMED OF YOUR BODY--BUT NEVER THRIFT!
えーーん
えーーん
MISSION 2
SHAMEFUL MIRACLE


"DISCIPLIN-ARIAN."
ARE YOU A BULLY, BIG SIS?
HEY, YOU KIDS, GET OUT OF HERE.
G'WAN. BEAT IT. SCRAM.
WHY IS EVERY ONE LOOKING AT ME...?
AHEM. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO HERE, YOU SEE, IS TO CREATE THE FOUNDATIONS OF A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE WORLD, IN WHICH EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY ELGALA, WILL KNOW THEIR PLACE.
sob!
sob!
don't cry!
what happened?
huh?


WHAT IS THIS?
HAVE I DIS-ILLUSIONED THEM?
WILL THEY NOW NOT BELIEVE IN OUR NEW ORDER?
WAIT, WHAT'S GOING ON?
I SURE WISH I KNEW IF THIS WAS REALLY HAPPENING, OR JUST MY USUAL PARANOIA!
DON'T I BELIEVE THAT CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE?


--EVEN HYATT?!
BUT WHAT DO I CARE? NO MATTER HOW SMALL MY ENEMIES, I STILL HAVE SOLDIERS IN THIS CAUSE, LOYAL COMRADES--
AM I WRONG?
I-I DON'T CARE WHAT THIS SCUM THINKS OF ME! BUT..BUT DOES THIS SOMEHOW REFLECT ON OUR LORD IL PALAZZO...?!
CAN IT BE THEY THINK WE'RE SOME KIND OF LOW-BUDGET, PENNY-ANTE OPERATION?!


I AM NOT TOTALLY IMMUNE TO YOUR PATHETIC TEARS. YOU ARE PITIABLE; THEREFORE YOU SHALL RECEIVE PITY!
THAT SOUNDED NOBLE, DIDN'T IT?
OKAY, ELGALA!
I WILL SHOW I CAN BE GENEROUS AS WELL AS TIGHT, MERCIFUL AS WELL AS VINDICTIVE.
SINCE YOU INSIST, LET'S COMPROMISE!
GLARING, SENIOR?
YOU TOO, HA-CHAN. STOP GLARING AT ME AND COME ALONG!
WHAT IS IT, DEAR?
Mmmaster!♡
huh?
Master?
Master!
THIS WAY!
Ah?


Oh, cool! It's Miwa-chan!
WHAZZ-SSUP?
Um, I've been calling my master to report something interesting, but he doesn't answer.
Is he busy?

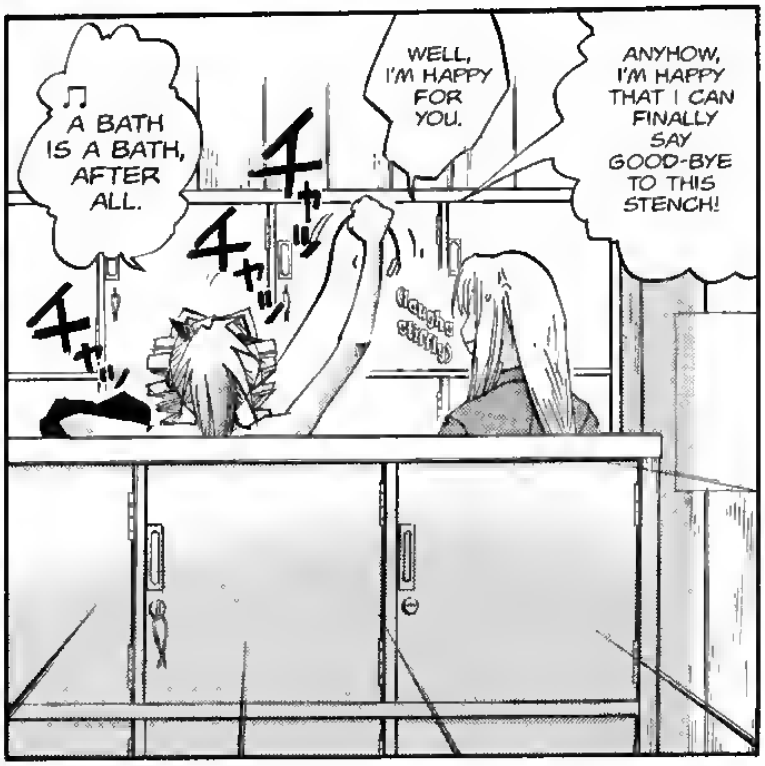

KINDA.
UMI-KUN?
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN SO...SULKY LATELY?
sob
YOU PREFER A MORE MATURE, STABLE WOMAN, DON'T YOU?
YOU DON'T NEED ME HERE ANYMORE, DO YOU?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...


Why's he busy?
MY DEAR GOJYOU IS PRE-OCCUPIED WITH A WORK-RELATED MATTER...
OH? I SEE. HOW INTERESTING VERY WELL. HERE ARE YOUR ORDERS, SECOND-CHAN.
IF IT FEELS GOOD... DO IT.
Yehoo! ♫
I'm on their trail!


BEHOLD!
公衆浴場 市湯
セラミックス鉱泉
男
女
A PUBLIC BATH, NOT A SPA?
SHE MADE US WALK ALL THIS WAY FOR THIS?
WELL, I GUESS I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR EVEN THIS MUCH...
SHUT YOUR BRAIN AND FOLLOW ME!


SENIOR EXCEL IS IN A GOOD MOOD.
WHAT A CHANGE! I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HER.
I WILL EVEN ALLOW YOU AN EXTRA LUXURY TODAY--YOU MAY BUY A COFFEE-FLAVORED MILK.
WE HAVE BEEN AS FRUGAL AS SPARTANS. BUT TODAY WE SHALL KICK IT LIKE ROMANS. YES, AS LORD IL PALAZZO'S FOLLOWERS, WE NEED TO "CHILL OUT" FROM TIME TO TIME TO GET RID OF OUR "HANG-UPS."


I CAN'T WAIT TO STRETCH OUT IN THE TUB...


♫ A BATH IS A BATH, AFTER ALL.
WELL, I'M HAPPY FOR YOU.
ANYHOW, I'M HAPPY THAT I CAN FINALLY SAY GOOD-BYE TO THIS STENCH!


...AND JUST RELAX! ♫
OKAY.
LET'S GET IN THE TUB, HYATT.
and get this over with


HOW REFRESHING!
ﾅﾆ?..!


カポ
OH, YES, SENIOR.


ADMITTEDLY, THIS MAY NOT BE GOOD ADVICE FOR SENIOR HYATT
YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR TIME AND SAVOR...THE PLEASURES OF THE BATH.
YOU WERE ONLY IN FOR FIVE SECONDS. you didn't even take off your clothes!
ポーン
OKAY, OKAY.
blub blub
DON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY LIBERALITY!
ELGALA! IT'S BEEN THIRTY SECONDS!
THAT GIRL NEEDS TO LEARN TO DISTINGUISH KINDNESS FROM WEAKNESS.
PERHAPS SHE CAN STAY UNTIL OUR CLOTHES DRY, SENIOR.


Um.
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING THERE?
EH...?
YOU KNOW I WASH YOU EVERY DAY!
WHAT? HAVE YOU BEEN A DIRTY LITTLE GIRL?
Can I go take a bath?
YES? WHAT?
Master! ♡

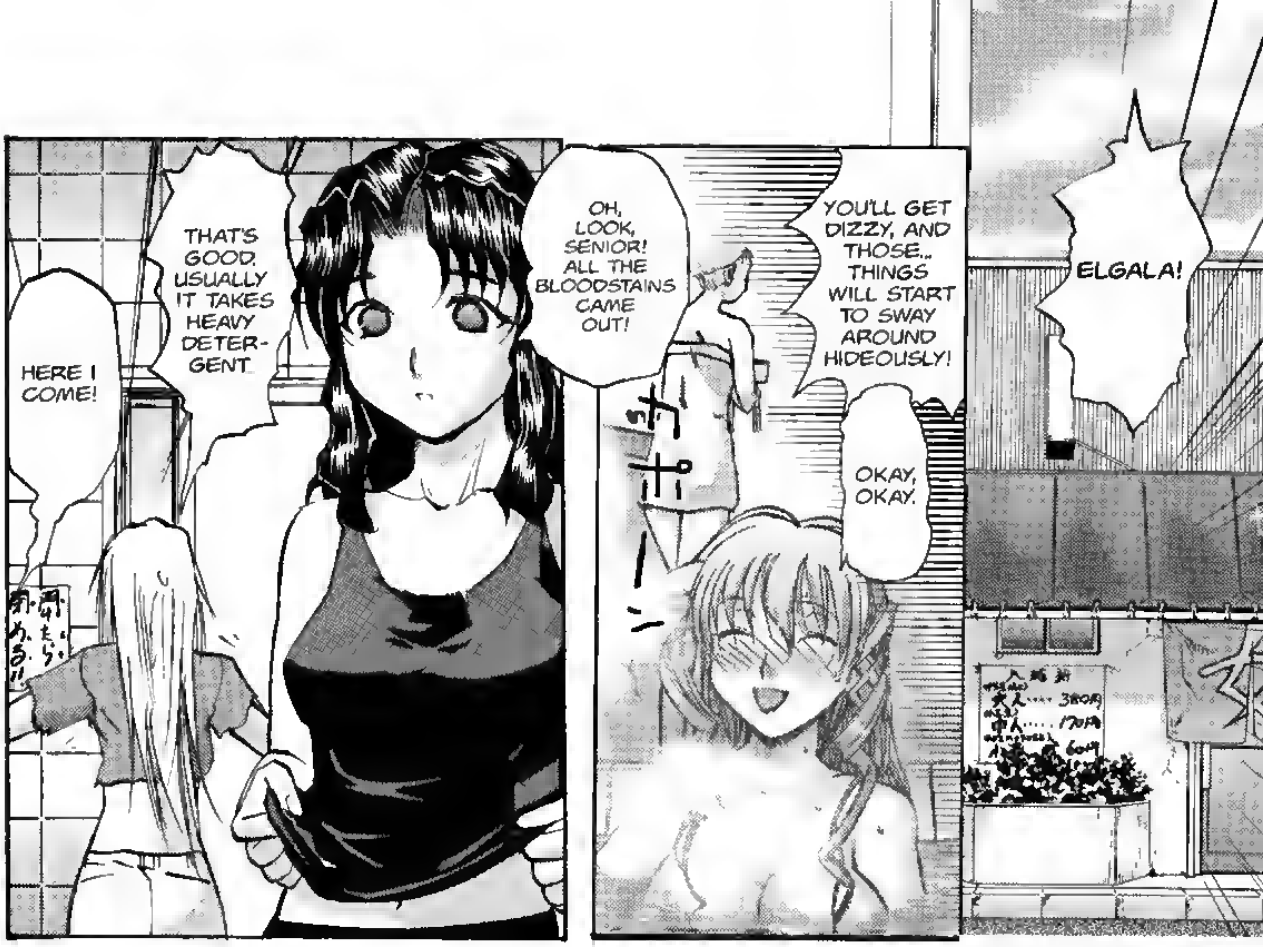

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SUSPICIOUS?
WHAT ...? ∪
Miwa said it was okay.
WHO GAVE YOU THE PERMISSION TO DO THAT?
I've been following some suspicious people.


PROFESSOR! I'VE BAKED MUFFINS FOR YOU!
WHAT ?!
They're the people who tried to kidnap me at City Hall the other day!


YOU DID WELL.
WHAT LUCK!
...IN A PARK ?
DO YOU MEAN ...
MMMMMM!


WHERE YOU GOIN', MISAKI?
huh?
TO THE REST-ROOM.
huh?
huh?
OH.
NOW, MR. IWATA. YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE A YOUNG LADY TO SAY A WORD LIKE RESTROOM. IT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT, ISN'T IT?
NO, IT WASN'T, BUT YOUR REMARK IS.
SORRR-REE-EE!
i don't get it


YOU GAVE ME THIS CELL PHONE. NOBODY ELSE CALLS THIS NUMBER.
YES, THIS LINE IS ENCRYPTED. OUR COMMUNICATIONS ARE NOW TOTALLY SECURE... EAVESDROPPING IS IMPOSSIBLE.
W・C
HELLO.
IT'S ME, SHIOUJI.
OBVIOUSLY.
I DON'T WANT TO BE OPENLY INVOLVED THIS TIME.
...WHY DID YOU TELL KABAPU ABOUT THIS?
ROPPONMATSU II HAPPENED TO RUN INTO IL PALAZZO'S PEOPLE.
IT WAS PURELY BY ACCIDENT.
WELL, IF I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION, YOU'LL OWE ME ONE.
AND... THERE GOES THE SIREN.
I BELIEVE YOU'LL SOON BE MOBILIZED.
RIGHT.
SOMETHING HAPPENED, RIGHT?


ELGALA!
YOU'LL GET DIZZY, AND THOSE... THINGS WILL START TO SWAY AROUND HIDEOUSLY!
OKAY, OKAY.
OH, LOOK, SENIOR! ALL THE BLOODSTAINS CAME OUT!
THAT'S GOOD. USUALLY IT TAKES HEAVY DETER-GENT.
HERE I COME!

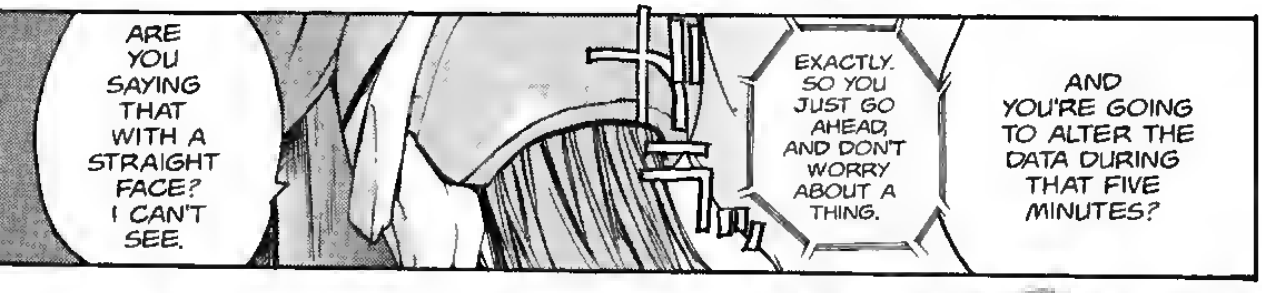

THE LAZY-- ALL RIGHT, HA-CHAN... LET'S JUST WAIT FOR HER OUTSIDE.
OKAY.
NO COFFEE-FLAVORED MILK FOR ELGALA!

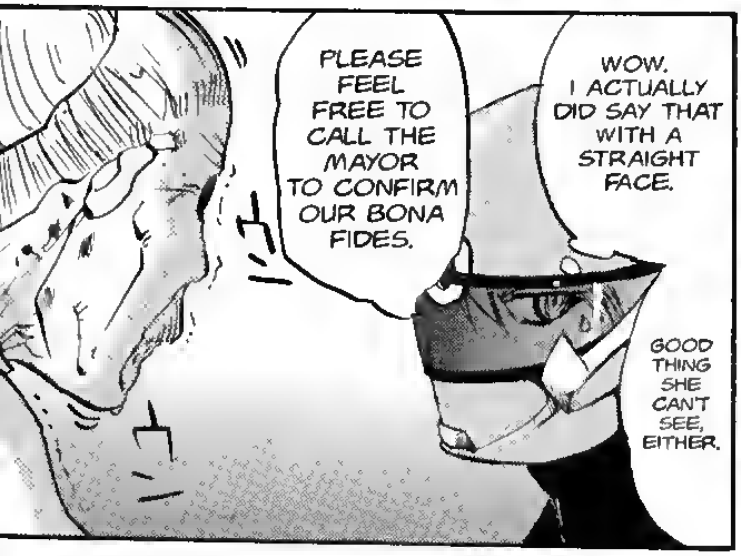

CARROT AND STICK...
..HAVE TO REMEMBER TO GIVE HER MORE STICK.


!!
THEY!
THEM!
SENIOR?
WHAT'S WRONG, SENIOR?
THE STATE!
ガラ
AFTER THAT SOAK, I'M SO PEACEFUL. SO CALM.
Ahhhhhh, that was nice.

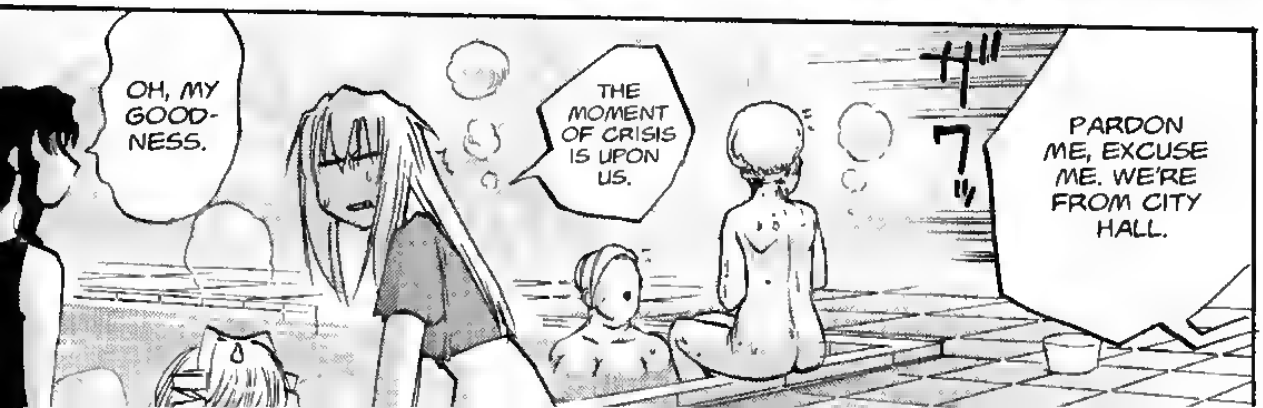

HOW CAN YOU BE SO CALM?!
ガシャーン
THOSE CRAZY-COLORED TERRORISTS ARE WAITING FOR US OUTSIDE!
whub?
hub?
WE'RE SURROUNDED! SURROUNDED, DO YOU HEAR ME? AT LEAST, ON ONE SIDE!
ROPPONMATSU AND I WILL GO IN FIRST TO ASSESS THE SITUATION.
WHY?
YOU GUYS SHOULDN'T ENTER THE WOMEN'S SECTION BEFORE WE CONFIRM THAT THE SUSPECTS ARE THERE. DON'T YOU AGREE?
YEAH... GUESS YOU GOT A POINT...
Aye... reet...
シィィィィィィ


I'M RUNNING YOUR DATA LINK TO KAPAPU THROUGH ROPPONMATSU. HE WON'T KNOW IT, BUT IT'LL BE ON A FIVE-MINUTE DELAY.
YES. finally
IS THIS LINE SECURE?
AH, SHIOUJI.
MISS MATSUYA.


ARE YOU SAYING THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE? I CAN'T SEE.
EXACTLY. SO YOU JUST GO AHEAD, AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO ALTER THE DATA DURING THAT FIVE MINUTES?


PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL THE MAYOR TO CONFIRM OUR BONA FIDES.
WOW. I ACTUALLY DID SAY THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE.
GOOD THING SHE CAN'T SEE, EITHER.


SUSPICIOUS-LOOKING INDIVIDUALS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE ENTERED THIS BATHHOUSE. WE'RE GOING TO CONDUCT A SEARCH, OKAY?
EXCUSE ME, BUT WE'RE FROM CITY HALL.

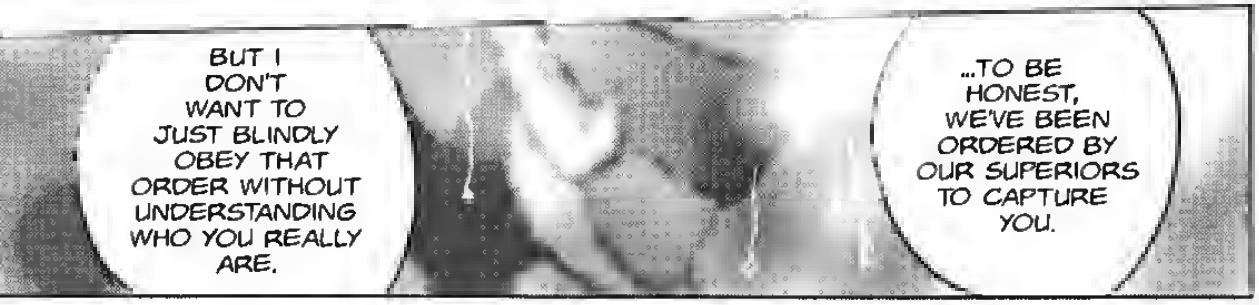

OH, MY GOOD-NESS.
THE MOMENT OF CRISIS IS UPON US.
PARDON ME, EXCUSE ME. WE'RE FROM CITY HALL.


WHAT?
HUH?
EH?
THE MAYOR HAS ORDERED US TO SHUT DOWN THE BATHHOUSE.
TAKE YOUR DEFENSIVE POSITION IN THERE, ELGALA.
WE THREE CAN MAKE A STAND..
WELL, AT LEAST WE HAVE OUR TEAM.
IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED "ACROSS," PLEASE VACATE THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY.
HOW DID THEY KNOW WE WERE HERE?
DAMN..
THEY... PROBABLY DON'T HEAR SO WELL.
WELL, THEN I GUESS WE DON'T HAVE TO BE DISCREET, THEN.
AHEM. koff
Yep. I detect more than three people inside, though.
It looks like some civilians have remained The signals are old and weak
ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE IN THERE, ROPPONMATSU?
SHIOUJI, DON'T LOOK AT THIS.
(SNORT)
THEY'RE A LITTLE TOO OLD FOR ME, DEAR.
WELL, DON'T LOOK, ANYWAY.


NOISY, AREN'T THEY?
WE KNOW YOU THREE ARE IN THERE!
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF HARMING YOU.
WE DON'T NEED TO SEE EACH OTHER'S FACES...BUT CAN WE JUST TALK?
LOOK... STAY CALM.
WHO'S WE, REACTION-ARY?!
WHO IS YOUR LEADER?
WHAT... ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...?
I WANT TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.
WHAT IS YOUR ORGANIZA-TION TRYING TO ACHIEVE?
WHAT KIND OF A STUPID QUESTION IS THAT? OUR GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH AN IDEAL STATE UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF OUR LORD IL PALAZZO, DUH!
WHO IS IL PALAZZO?
LORD IL PALAZZO!


BUT WHEN I WEIGH THIS STALE CUSTOM AGAINST THE SAFETY OF MY COLLEAGUES...
YES, I UNDERSTAND THAT LADIES' ROOMS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OFF-LIMITS TO MEN
Ah didn't knaa wu still hev such a simple, traditional place like this aroond an' aal.
IWATA.
IT'S OBVIOUS WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT--
LOOK, MAN--IF YOU WANT AN EXCUSE TO SNEAK IN THERE, JUST SAY SO.
WELL, I'M GOING TO HAVE MY HUSBAND FILE A COMPLAINT. THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
DID YOU SEE THEIR OUTFITS?
AND I JUST CAME IN.
THE MAYOR DID IT
WHY'D THEY SHUT IT DOWN?
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT A BEAST LIKE YOU WANTS...
...BUT TO ME, THIS IS A PLACE TO WITNESS HER FIGHTING SPIRIT NUDE, I MEAN, RENEWED.
WHO IS THE BEAST?
I FEAR MISAKI'S SAFETY IS AT STAKE!
SAY IT, IWATA! SAY, "I WANT TO PEEP INSIDE THE GIRLS' BATHROOM!" LIKE THAT!
AHH, THAT SOAPY FRAGRANCE...
WAIT!
CAREFUL! I SMELL OLD WOMEN, TOO!


I'M DOING NOTHING WRONG! I'M ONLY GOING IN THERE TO SAVE MY COLLEAGUES!
THAT'S WHAT I SAY! THAT'S WHAT I KEEP TELLING MYSELF!
YES, DEPENDING ON YOUR MINDSET, THE GIRLS' BATHROOM CAN EITHER BE AN INVITING PLACE... OR A BATTLEFIELD!
THE SCENT OF CAMAY HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD.


BUT I DON'T WANT TO JUST BLINDLY OBEY THAT ORDER WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
...TO BE HONEST, WE'VE BEEN ORDERED BY OUR SUPERIORS TO CAPTURE YOU.


AS A FOLLOWER OF LORD IL PALAZZO, I'VE NEVER HEARD SUCH A CRAZY NAME!
FIRST QUESTION... HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THE NAME... DR. KABAPU?


SENIOR! I CAN'T OPEN THE BACK DOOR! IT'S LOCKED!
I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL...
SO I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU.


...TENMANGU SHIOUJI...?

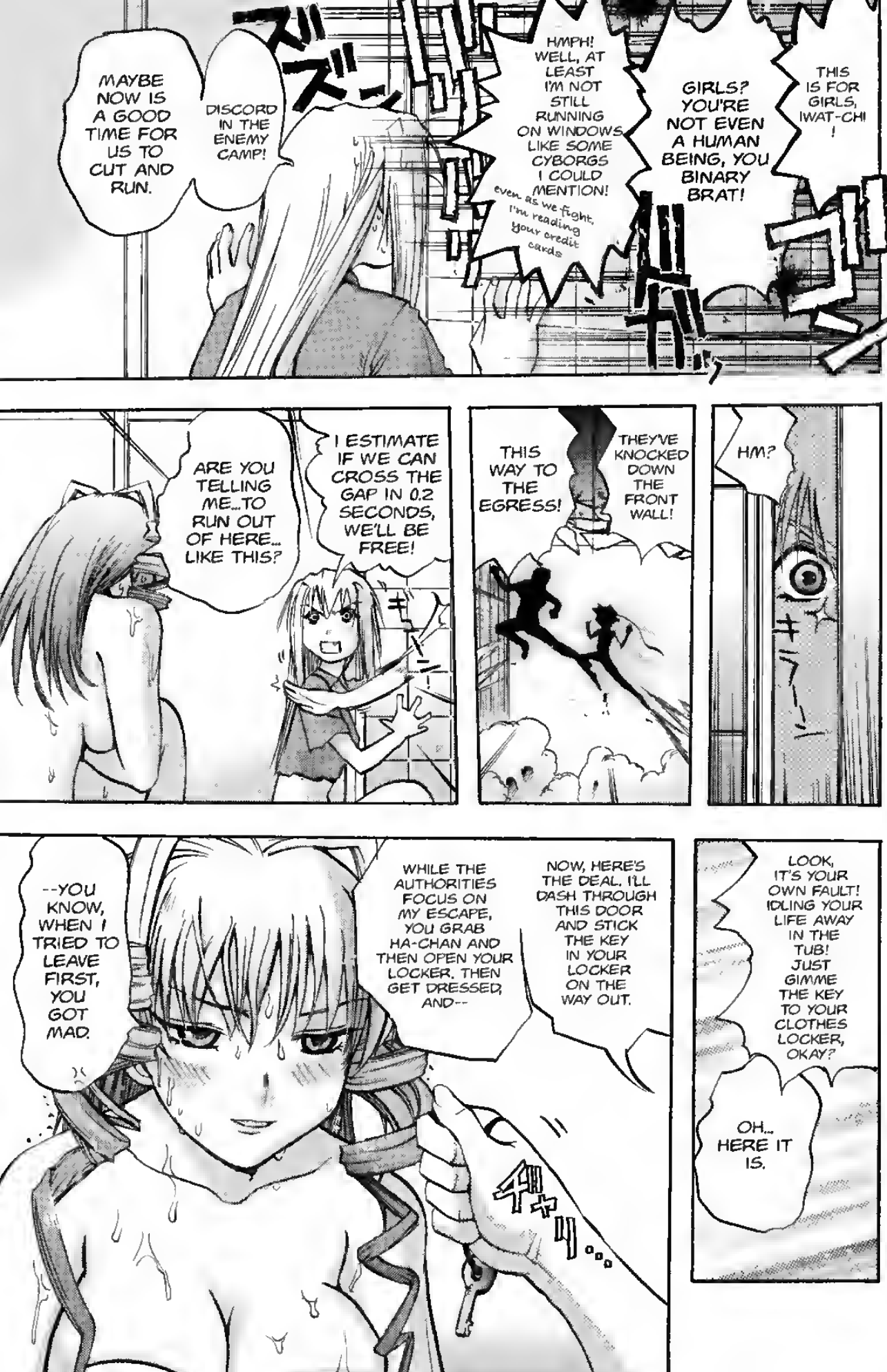

WHAT ABOUT...


WHAT THE--
MISAKI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?


AND HOW'S ROPPONMATSU II? THAT DUMB THING DESTROYED YET?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO WAIT OUTSIDE?
RIGHT! WHERE'S THE ENEMY?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?


urk!
YOU'RE SO MEAN, IWAT-CHI!
agkkk!

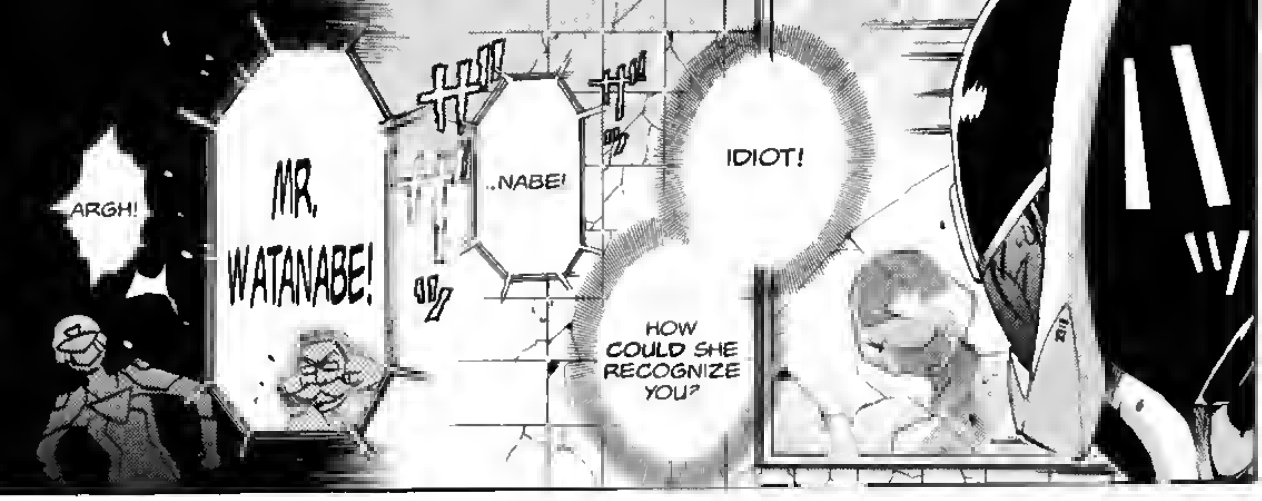

HUH?
Down h-e-e-e-r-e!
YOU'RE AL-READY IN HELL?

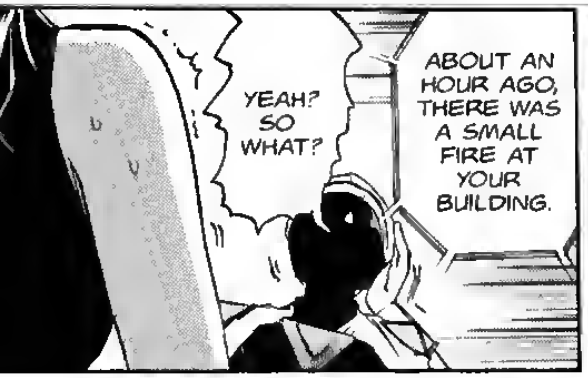

MAYBE NOW IS A GOOD TIME FOR US TO CUT AND RUN.
DISCORD IN THE ENEMY CAMP!
ズズーン
HMPH! WELL, AT LEAST I'M NOT STILL RUNNING ON WINDOWS LIKE SOME CYBORGS I COULD MENTION!
even as we fight, I'm reading your credit cards
GIRLS? YOU'RE NOT EVEN A HUMAN BEING, YOU BINARY BRAT!
THIS IS FOR GIRLS, IWAT-CHI!
ARE YOU TELLING ME...TO RUN OUT OF HERE... LIKE THIS?
I ESTIMATE IF WE CAN CROSS THE GAP IN 0.2 SECONDS, WE'LL BE FREE!
THIS WAY TO THE EGRESS!
THEY'VE KNOCKED DOWN THE FRONT WALL!
HM?
キラーン
--YOU KNOW, WHEN I TRIED TO LEAVE FIRST, YOU GOT MAD.
WHILE THE AUTHORITIES FOCUS ON MY ESCAPE, YOU GRAB HA-CHAN AND THEN OPEN YOUR LOCKER. THEN GET DRESSED, AND--
NOW, HERE'S THE DEAL. I'LL DASH THROUGH THIS DOOR AND STICK THE KEY IN YOUR LOCKER ON THE WAY OUT.
LOOK, IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT! IDLING YOUR LIFE AWAY IN THE TUB! JUST GIMME THE KEY TO YOUR CLOTHES LOCKER, OKAY?
OH... HERE IT IS.


FIRST OF ALL, MY CLOTHES AREN'T IN THE LOCKER... THEY'RE IN THE DRYER!
AH.
HERE WE GO...
YES! THIS IS THE ONE! HOW LUCKY!
YOU MEAN THE DRYER THAT JUST GOT THROWN THROUGH THE WALL?
カタッ
BUT...
LET'S GO, ELGALA! TIME TO RETREAT WITH HONOR!
EEK! THEY'RE SHREDDED!
ONCE THEY'RE GONE, SNEAK OUT. WE'LL REGROUP LATER.
UM...
SENIOR... PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
ELGALA AND I WILL DRAW THE ENEMY'S ATTENTION AWAY AS WE HOOF IT. YOU STAY HERE, OKAY?
YES?
HYATT!


SISTER...I SAW THE CRIMSON BUTTERFLY.
Note: this statement means absolutely nothing
LET'S GO CATCH THE BUTTER-FLY!
But one of them is still...
YOU TOO, POLYGON DOLL!
Nya ?
WAIT!
DAMN IWATA! HE RUINED MY PLAN!
Howay!

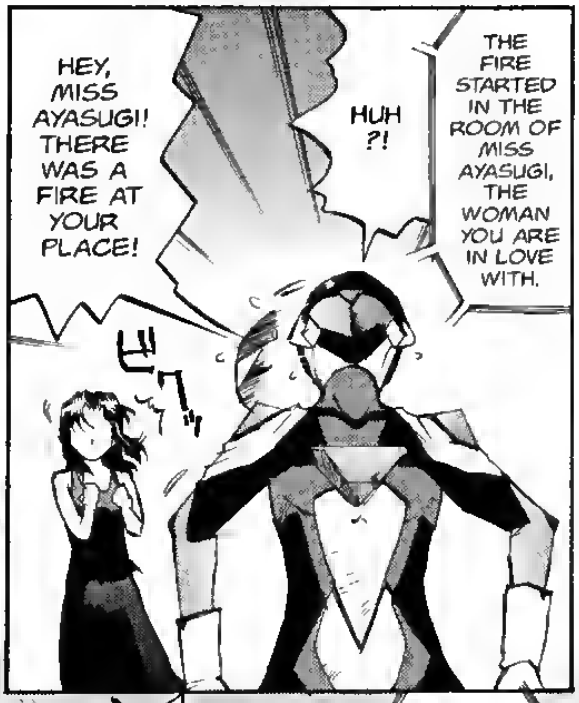

IS ANYBODY THERE...?
HELLO ...?
UM...
MISS AYASUGI?
OH!
AREN'T YOU... MISS AYASUGI?
IT'S OKAY! IT'S ME!
WHY ARE YOU SCARED?


ARGH!
MR. WATANABE!
..NABE!
IDIOT!
HOW COULD SHE RECOGNIZE YOU?


YEAH? SO WHAT?
ABOUT AN HOUR AGO, THERE WAS A SMALL FIRE AT YOUR BUILDING.


LET ME UPDATE YOU ON THE SITUATION.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT NO ONE ELSE IS ANSWERING MY CALLS!
I'M GLAD I REACHED YOU.
WHAT? AND TURN DOWN THE VOLUME!


AM I TO UNDERSTAND SHE'S THERE WITH YOU?
YEAH.


HEY, MISS AYASUGI! THERE WAS A FIRE AT YOUR PLACE!
HUH ?!
THE FIRE STARTED IN THE ROOM OF MISS AYASUGI, THE WOMAN YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH.


...MISTER WATANABE. CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME.
MU... why, you...
ARREST? FOR WHAT, YOU MUSTACHIOED MORON!?
PERFECT! YOU ARE TO PLACE HER UNDER ARREST!


SHE CALLS HERSELF CHIHAYA AYASUGI... BUT THAT ISN'T HER REAL NAME!
SHE'S A CONSPIRATOR... A MEMBER OF THE SECRET ORGANIZATION LED BY IL PALAZZO. THE PEOPLE WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!
SHE'S ELUDED US ALL THIS TIME, BUT NOW THE GAME IS UP, AND..
MISS... AYASUGI?
HELLO?
M-MR. WATANABE...
I MEAN, WHO LOOKS WORSE.
IT'S JUST YOU.
...IS IT JUST ME, OR DO WE NOW LOOK EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE?
HEY...
C'MON... LET'S GO BACK.
THEM GIRLS SURE CAN RUN FAST.
END MISSION 2




EXELISAGE

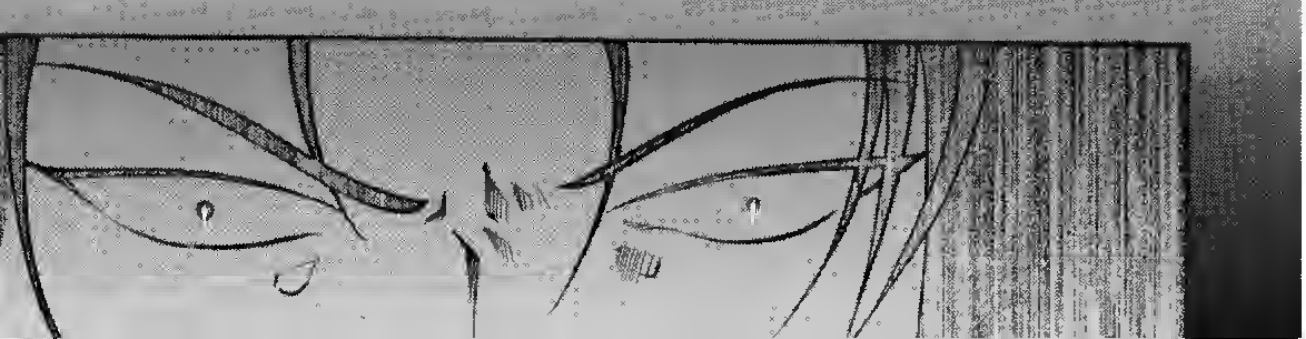

...BUT YOU WILL SEE HOW OUR ENEMIES ARE DEVIOUS.
I'M ONLY AMAZED THAT IT TOOK US SO LONG TO FIND OUT ABOUT HER...
ALL THIS TIME, SHE'S BEEN HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT RIGHT BEFORE YOU, UNDER A FALSE IDENTITY...
MR. WATANABE... ARE YOU LISTENING ...?
SHUT UP!
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
SHUT UP...


HEY...
...MISS AYASUGI ?

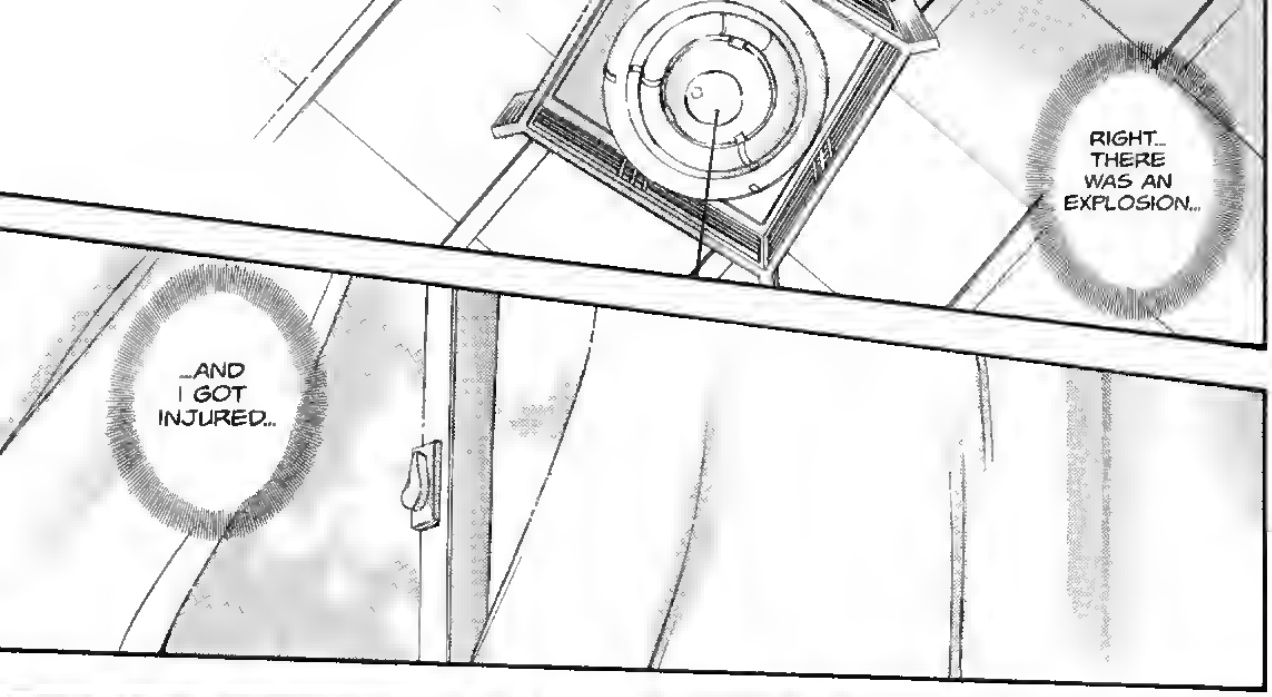

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WHAT HE JUST SAID... IT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT?
DR. KABAPU JUST MADE IT UP...
ズザザ...
ザザ
シュー
シュ


MISS AYASUGI!






MISSION 3
THE LONELY LOVERS
ナニソレ
4444…
HUH...?


RIGHT... THERE WAS AN EXPLOSION...
...AND I GOT INJURED...

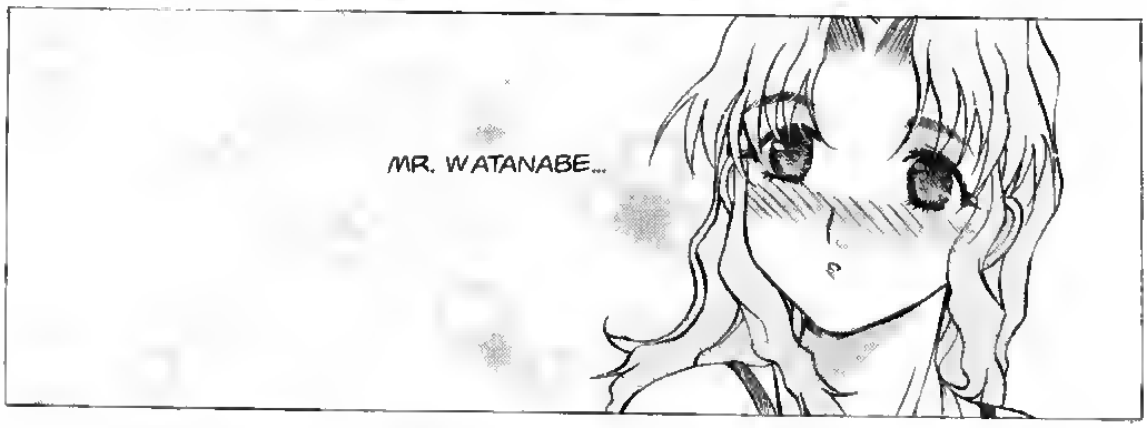

IT ALMOST SEEMS LIKE IT WAS A BAD DREAM...
...BUT I'M OFF SICK LEAVE TODAY.

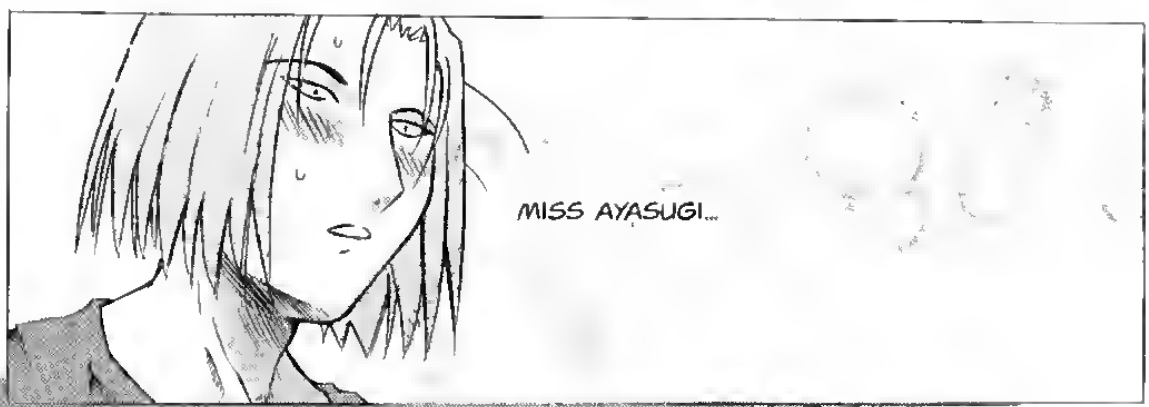

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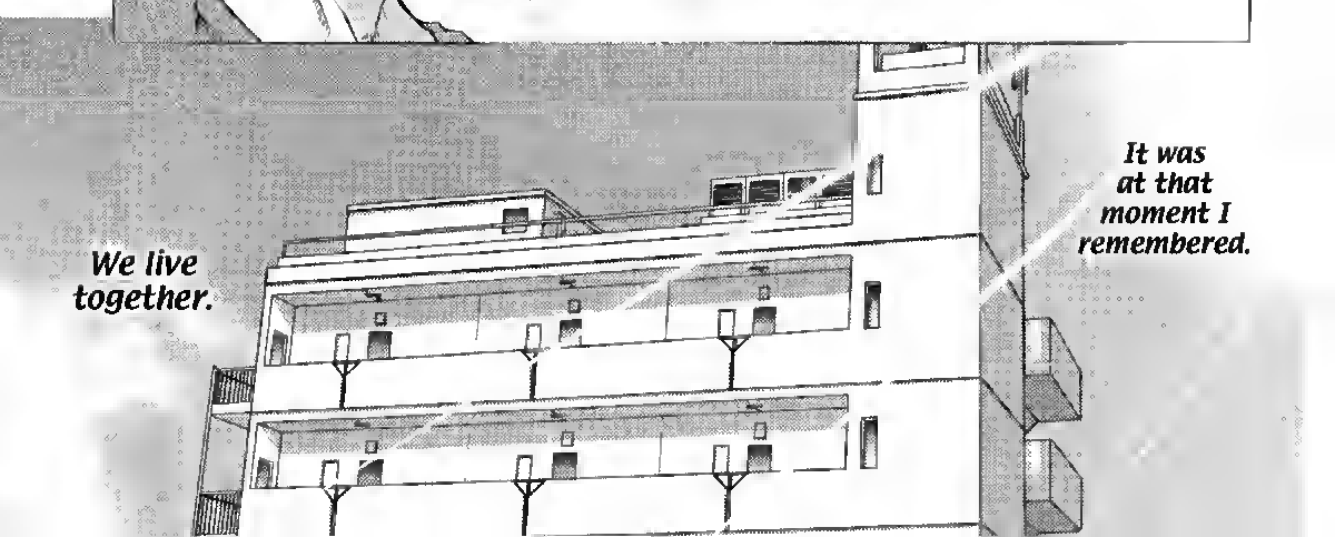

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SUMIYOSHI MUST HAVE...
HM? SOME-ONE'S COOKING.
?
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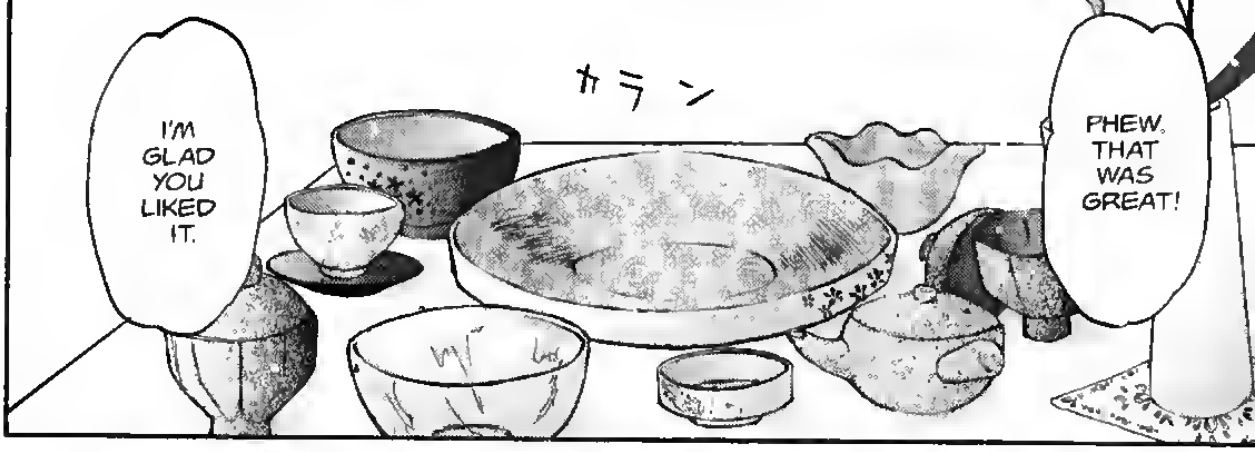

ah ah
MISS AYASUGI !?
UM...
...GOOD MORNING.
BREAKFAST IS READY. WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT BEFORE YOU GO TO WORK?
I SURE DO!
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE...
UM... WAIT!
LET ME SERVE YOU THEN


YES?
UM...
UH...


MR. WATANABE...


MISS AYASUGI...

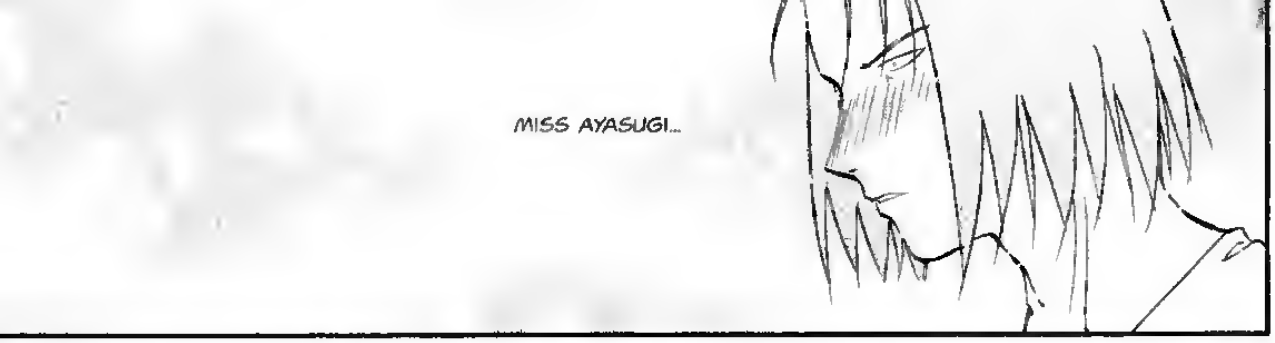

We live together.
It was at that moment I remembered.

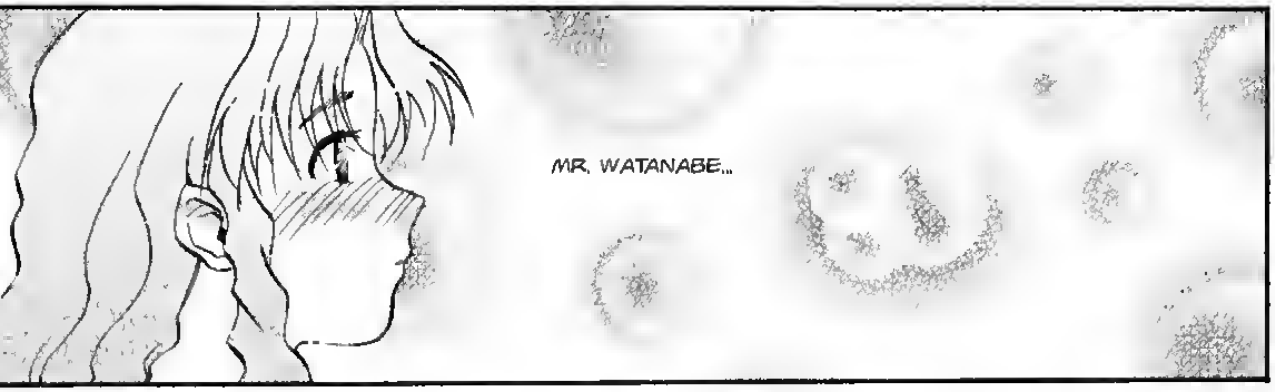

カラン
I'M GLAD YOU LIKED IT.
PHEW. THAT WAS GREAT!

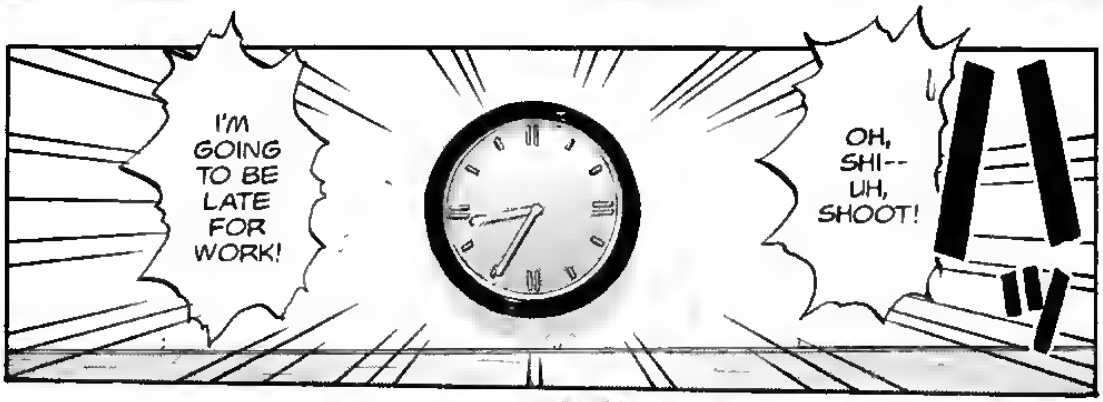

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THAT'S OKAY, I'LL GET IT MYSELF...


WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE TEA?
THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLI-MENT
NO, IT WAS REALLY GOOD, THANKS



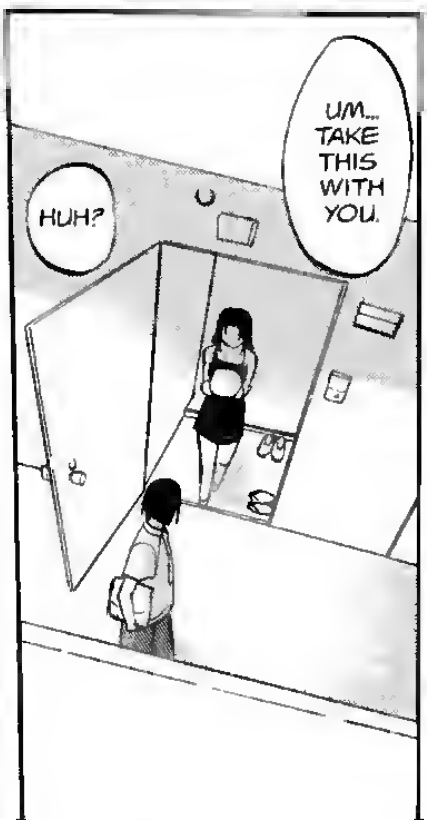

MISS AYASUGI...


MR. WATANABE...


I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR WORK!
OH, SHI-- UH, SHOOT!


I'M SORRY... I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO TERRIBLE...
ARE YOU KIDDING ?!


I MADE YOU LUNCH...


UM... TAKE THIS WITH YOU.
HUH?


WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WE HAVEN'T GONE ANYWHERE. I HAVEN'T HAD ANY VACATION LATELY
SPEAKING OF WHICH, HOW FAR HAVE YOU TWO GONE YET?
(high nervous giggle)
LET ME REPHRASE THE QUESTION. ♡
BOY, YOU TWO ARE IN LOVE. DID SHE MAKE YOU THAT BENTO BOX? ♡
Aye, nee ane's gan t' tear apart th' pair a 'yerz eh? That's sweet an' aal.
BEAT IT.


It's good t' knaa wurkin' forra soulless bureaucracy has not changed Iwata.
I UNDER-STOOD THE FIRST TIME!
Please list the specific portions of her body that you have enjoyed to date. Use as much detail as necessary—


NO-WHERE!
So how far did you get?


I HAD 2000 ON HIM DOING IT!
SEE? I TOLD YOU GUYS.
Nae. I'm just mad cuz ye cost us a thoosand yen.


ARE YOU TAKING IWATA'S SIDE?
Aye. And you'll not. Becorz ye hev nee guts as a man, Watanabe.


THE BET WAS THEIR IDEA. I JUST HATE TO LOSE.
MATSUYA... ISN'T THIS CRUDE, EVEN FOR YOU?
CONSIDER THIS YOUR CUT.
THANK YOU, WATANABE-KUN.
I WORK WITH THESE PEOPLE.
Are you gonna do it, Wata-pee?
HUH...
NOT A BAD IDEA...
BUT MI-SA-KI! THOSE ARE THE TICKETS I GAVE YOU SO WE COULD GO TO THE...
YOU KNOW, YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF NOT TAKING HER OUT. WHY NOT GO TO THE PREMIERE?
MOVIE TICKETS?
Humans and robots both get some, only cyborgs don't get none! fighting spirit
SHUT UP, ROBOT! YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE-- TO BE INTIMATE WITH A GROWN MAN!
YEAH.


I'M HOME.
MISS AYA...
...HMM?
SHE'S NOT HERE?
DID SHE GO OUT?
MISS AYASUGI?
YES?


スキ
ドコス
WELCOME HOME
MR. WATANABE. ☆
I'M SORRY. I WAS IN THE BATH.
AHH-HHH-HHHH-HHA HA HA HA! IN THE BATH, EH?
ガタッ
HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT WORK? ARE YOU HUNGRY?
カク カク
OHHHH-HHHHHH YES! I'M HUNGRY!


why don't you get dressed first?
I'LL GO FIX DINNER.
thank you. meanwhile I'm just gonna kinda... whack my head against this post for a few minutes.
OH, MY GOOD-NESS.
EXCUSE ME. ☆
OH, THAT WAS GREAT!



Secret investigation beforehand is your key to a trusting relationship!



Where did you take someone on a first date?

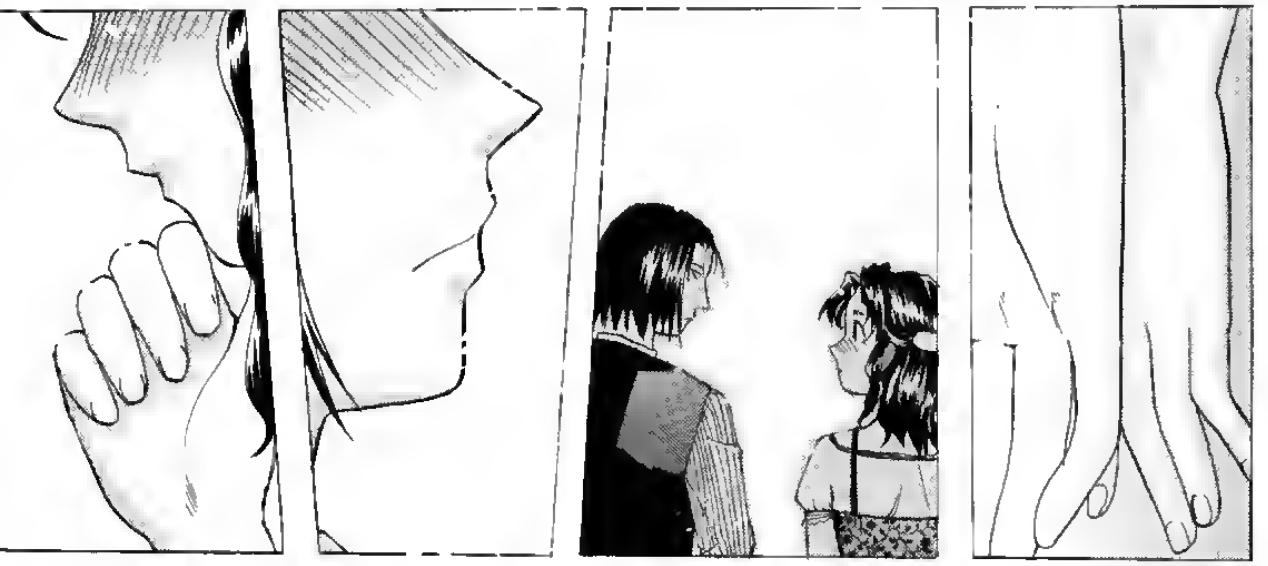
Survey by Rikdo Research, 2004.




MR. WATANABE...
I MEAN, ONLY IF YOU WANT TO...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'D LOVE TO.
M-M-M-M-ME NEITHER. ☆
I CAN'T WAIT.


MC CINEMA
Most popular restaurants for a data
Others
XXXko
XXXshima tei
XXXran
Ganso Nagahama Ramen
Makina Udon
Survey by Rikdo Research, 2004.
Some names obscured due to insufficient bribing.


Most popular noodles at XXXran Restaurant
Less salty
With light soup
With no garlic
With scallions
With roast pork
With no sauce
Firm (huh-huh-huh... "firm.")
Survey by Rikdo Research, 2004.
We regret that the revised payoff from XXXran Restaurant arrived too late to print their full name in this edition.






THANK YOU FOR TAKING ME OUT TODAY, MR WATANABE.
REALLY?
OH, NO. I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME.
ARE YOU TIRED?
MISS AYASUGI! PLEASE DON'T FEEL THAT WAY. DON'T YOU SEE...
UM...
YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOURSELF ON YOUR DAY OFF.
...YOU DIDN'T NEED TO WASTE YOUR TIME JUST TO PLEASE ME.
I MEAN, IT WAS WON-DERFUL, BUT...
MR. WATA...
...HOW MUCH PLEASURE I TAKE...
OH!
--WHOA!


I'M SORRY! DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD...?

"Don't miss a single chance to be the lion to your girl's impala. If she gives you even the slightest opening, pounce. TIP: Does she close her eyes when you hold her? That means an 80 to 90% chance that she'll accept you! All of you."

—Excerpt from Super Boys Be by Rikdokan Publishing





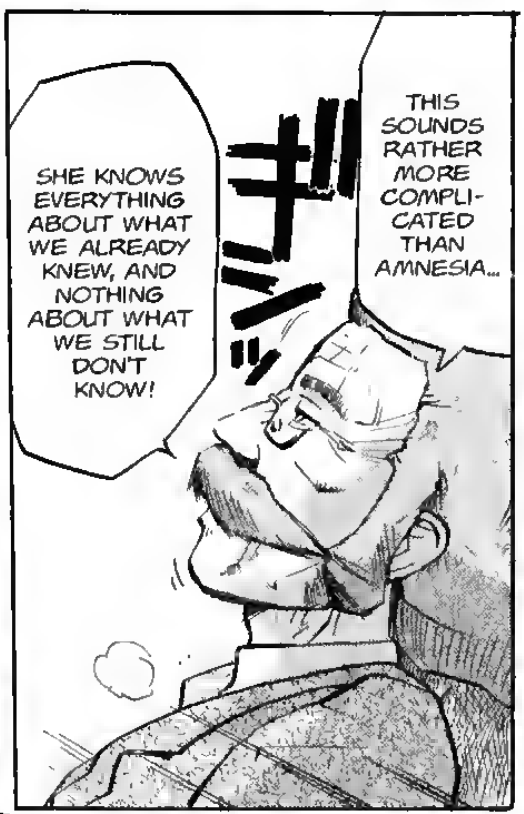

I WANT TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
...THE RIGHT THING...
NO!
NO!
LUST IS NOT THE ONLY THING ON MY MIND!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO!
THE RIGHT THING !!!
ピカン!
...THE RIGHT THING...?
SIR, I REGRET SHE HAS SHOWN NO SIGN OF RECOVERING HER MEMORY THUS FAR.
HOW IS THE GIRL DOING?

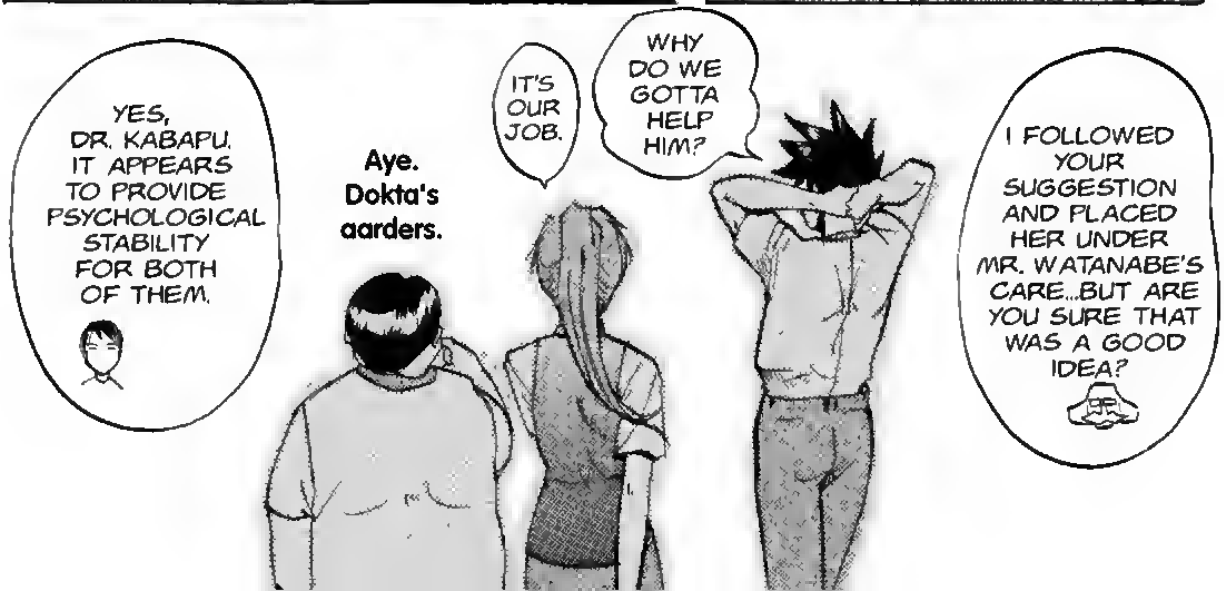

YES, SIR. YOU'VE HEARD THE TAPE FROM THE INTERRO-GATION.
AMNESIA, EH...?
I FELT... VERY JITTERY...
A MYSTERIOUS... CLASSIFIED AD...
I WAS... GOING DOWN A LONG STAIRWAY IN DARKNESS...
AND AFTER THAT I DON'T REMEM-BER...
...ANY...
...MORE


I JUST...
...REMEMBER ...HIM...
PERHAPS WE COULD TRY AND SEARCH PAST CLASSIFIED ADS... BUT WHAT IS "MYSTERIOUS?" AND PERHAPS IT WAS POSTED ONLINE...THIS IS ABSURD! WE HAVE ONE OF THEM RIGHT HERE!
NO, DOCTOR, NOT IN SUCH A HYPNOTIC STATE. I DON'T BELIEVE SHE'S WITHHOLDING THE INFORMATION; IT'S JUST BADLY FRAGMENTED, AS IT WERE.
YOU DON'T THINK SHE'S FAKING?
AND THEN SHE STARTS TALKING ABOUT THEIR DATES.

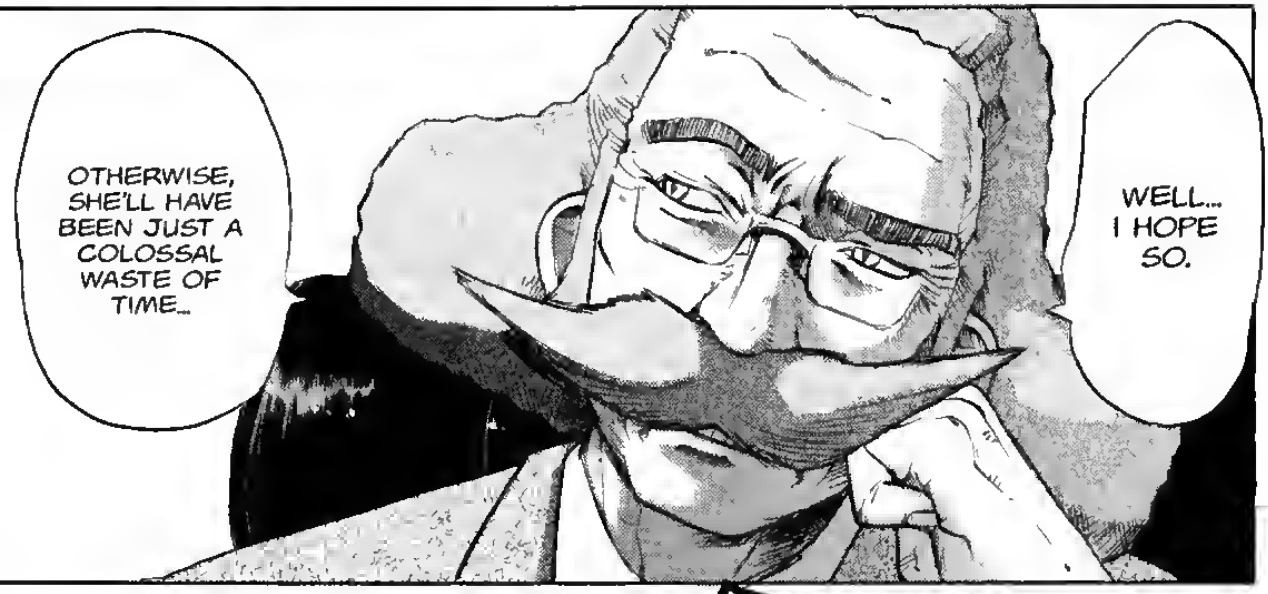

I'VE BEEN WONDERING, DOCTOR, WHY IT IS SHE SEEMS TO RECALL DETAILS OF MR. WATANABE SO WELL, YET NOTHING AT ALL OF WHAT ONE WOULD PRESUME IS MOST IMPORTANT TO HER, ACROSS AND IL PALAZZO.
MY THEORY IS THAT HE HAPPENED TO BE THE ONLY PERSON OUTSIDE THE ORGANIZATION SHE HAD REGULAR SOCIAL CONTACT WITH. SO IF SHE SUDDENLY CAN'T ACCESS THE SECRET PARTS OF HER IDENTITY, HER SUBCONSCIOUS DEFAULTS TO THE OPEN PART.


I HAD HOPED THIS WOULD PROVE A MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH...
I'M SURE THE EMOTIONAL SHOCK OF THE EXPLOSION IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER CURRENT STATE. HOWEVER, SINCE SHE ESCAPED PHYSICAL INJURY, THAT LOSS MAY BE ONLY TEMPORARY.


THIS SOUNDS RATHER MORE COMPLI-CATED THAN AMNESIA...
SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT WHAT WE ALREADY KNEW, AND NOTHING ABOUT WHAT WE STILL DON'T KNOW!
ギリッ


I FOLLOWED YOUR SUGGESTION AND PLACED HER UNDER MR. WATANABE'S CARE...BUT ARE YOU SURE THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA?
WHY DO WE GOTTA HELP HIM?
IT'S OUR JOB.
Aye. Dokta's aarders.
YES, DR. KABAPU. IT APPEARS TO PROVIDE PSYCHOLOGICAL STABILITY FOR BOTH OF THEM.

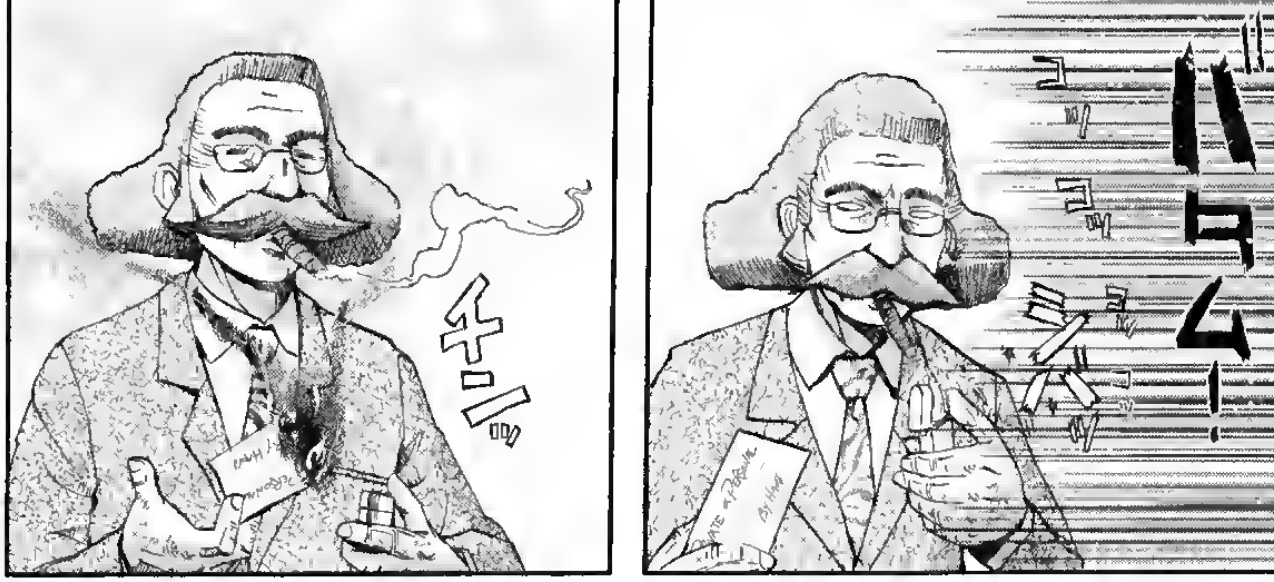

RATHER THAN FORCE THE ISSUE, I BELIEVE GOING THROUGH THE SIMPLE ROUTINES OF DAILY LIFE MIGHT HELP HER TO GRADUALLY REMEMBER.
EXCEPT FOR THE MEMORY LOSS, SHE APPEARS TO BE A COMPLETELY HEALTHY WOMAN.

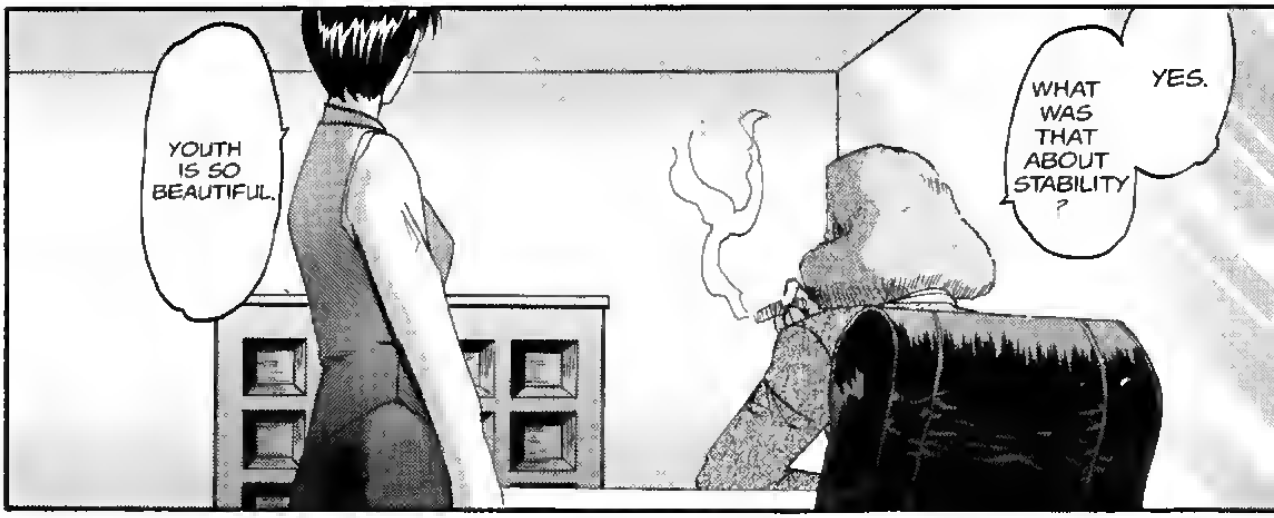

OTHERWISE, SHE'LL HAVE BEEN JUST A COLOSSAL WASTE OF TIME...
WELL... I HOPE SO.


DR. KABAPU!

I RESIGN!
I'M MARRYING MISS AYASUGI!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
PRIVATE APPROVAL
BY HAND


I'LL TAKE OVER MY PARENTS' RESTAURANT LIKE THEY WANT ME TO...
I'LL TAKE MISS AYASUGI AS MY PARTNER.. CHIHAYA.. OH, CHIHAYA..
Note: Not her real name
ガラ"
KINDLY EXPLAIN THIS OUTBURST.
I'LL TAKE HER BACK HOME!
WE'LL BE HAPPY! HAPPY! HAPPY!
UNACCEPT-ABLE.
YOU SEEM TO FORGET THIS ISN'T THE SORT OF JOB YOU CAN QUIT WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
I'M SERIOUS!
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME, MR. WATANABE...


ケムリ
ケムリ


YOUTH IS SO BEAUTIFUL.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT STABILITY?
YES.


I ADMIT I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED YOU'D BRING THAT UP. I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE HER ONLY REAL FRIEND.
HAS THE TIME FINALLY COME FOR US TO EAT MIN-CHAN?
SENIOR.
END MISSION 3


GUESS WHAT? I MAY BE GETTING MARRIED SOON!
!?!?
HELLO, MOM? IT'S ME! TORU!
?


EXECUTED

MISSION 4
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THE RAILROAD




EXCUSE ME...
...TORU.
YES?
ガチャ
WHAT IS IT, CHIHAYA ...?
Is she about to confess... her feelings for me?


..HAVE WHAT YOU LIKE. ☆
WELL, I WANT YOU TO...
WHAT I LIKE ?
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU LIKE, TORU.
ANYTHINGANYTHINGANYTHINGANYTHINGANYTHING
I WILL DO MY BEST TO GIVE IT TO YOU.
TO HAVE I WANT YOU TO HAVE I WANT
PLEASE TELL ME ANYTHING YOU WANT.
WHAT YOU LIKE WHAT YOU LIKE WHAT YOU LIKE WHAT YOU LIKE
...YOU, CHIHAYA!
WELL, THEN! I- WANT- TO- HAVE...


...OKAY.
PLEASE... TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT... ♡
...TORU.
THANK YOU, CHIHAYA-- I WAS STARVING.


EXCITING!
ギュ ギュ ギュ ギュ
SHE'S FRESH! SHE'S SO FRESH!
ン？ルルルュキ
THIS IS...A FULL COURSE MEAL.
OHHHH, THAT WAS GOOD. ANY CHANCE OF DESSERT?
BUT PERHAPS I'LL HAVE SOME MORE STUFFING FIRST.
THAT DOES LOOK SWEET.


...TORU?
huh?
...TORU?
YOUR BREATHING IS HEAVY... YOUR FACE IS FILMED WITH GREASY SWEAT...
IS SOMETHING WRONG? YOUR FACE IS RED...
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
p.s: i like nikujaga
i know how to make nikujaga.
good-bye
-THAT I'M GOING TO BE LATE FOR WORK! (again!)
YES?
I WAS JUST THINKING (again)--


THEN TAKE HER TO GRANDPA'S GRAVE.
FIRST, I SHOULD INTRODUCE HER TO MY PARENTS.
ONE STEP AT A TIME, IDIOT.
CAN'T I HAVE MORE SELF-CONTROL?
THE PROBLEM IS, I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY SAVINGS RIGHT NOW...
...AND WHAT ABOUT THE NAMES FOR OUR KIDS...?
FOR A BOY... BUT FOR A GIRL...
hmmm...
AND FOR ONCE IN MY LIFE, I MEAN IT.
GOOD MORNING!


ガコーン
Oh. Wata-gee.
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?
ハラ
ハラ
BRAT!
You know, it is a good morning! ♫


WELL WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
IT APPEARS SHE ATE ALL OF IWATA'S THIS-SEASON-ONLY-FLAVOR POCKY.
NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STOP THEM.
Maybe the Doctor could, but he's away
TWO MACHINES THAT HAVE NO TASTE ARE FIGHTING OVER FOOD?!
I mean, forst o' aal, this season's Pocky tastes like sheetrock.
Ahv wundad aboot that messel'.
THIS WILL FORCE THEM TO FINALLY GET US BETTER FURNITURE.
I NEARLY SAW THE GATES OF HEAVEN A MOMENT AGO...
at least the bento's okay
Haway lads. I'll get Shiouji t' shut 'em doon.
Erm 'e divvent ansaa 'eez phum Must be in th' pork, mind


How It Was His Fault:
HA HA HA HA!
Don't you understand that it was your fault?
Are you still talking about that? Get over it!
My Pocky!
IT'S YOUR FAULT WE COULDN'T CAPTURE THOSE GIRLS!
YOU'RE WORSE THAN USELESS!


NAKED!
NAKED!
WAAAAIT!
DAMN IT! THAT PIG SURE CAN FLY!
OH, SENIOR, YOUR WIT IS SO DEVASTATING! LET GO OF ME!
SENIOR! MY ARM JUST DOESN'T TWIST THAT WAY!


Slow down--
Hey, Iwat-chi!
--WHY?
DON'T TRY TO TELL ME IT'S MY FAULT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THERE?

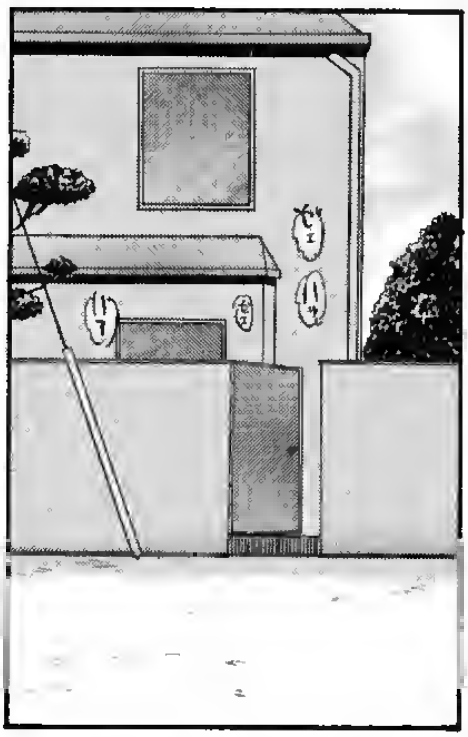

HAW! ALL NEKO, NO MIMI, HUH?
You ruined my ears, Iwat-chi!
Ahhh! My ears are gone!
LOOK AT YOU, VON NEUMANN'S NYMPH! CRASHING INTO PEOPLE'S HOUSES!
You jerk!
What'd you say, Iwatchi? Louder!
ANYWAY, YOU MADE ME LOSE TRACK OF THE GIRLS, DAMN YOU!
ALL RIGHT, SECOND! I HAVE AN ORDER FOR YOU.
IT SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE CAUGHT UP, THOUGH...
THESE OUTFITS DON'T MAKE RUNNING ANY EASIER, DO THEY?
H-howay, Matsuya but can we not slur doon?


They were cat ears.
SNIFF 'EM OUT! LIKE A DOG! WOOF!
ahem
WATCH HOW HUMAN BEINGS COMMUNICATE!
WORTH-LESS JUNKPILE!
Hmph!
And my functions are down...
I can detect sound and light, but I'm bad at olfactory analysis.
EEK!
EXCUSE ME-- BUT I'M LOOKING FOR NAKED WOMEN!


I'M TRYING TO DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE OUR PUBLIC IMAGE.
WH-WHY'D YOU BEAT ME, MISAKI?
so savagely


DON'T WORRY!
I GRABBED SOMETHING FOR YOU FROM A SHOP WE PASSED...


SENIOR! PLEASE FIND ME SOMETHING TO WEAR!
I CAN'T STAND BEING NAKED LIKE THIS! IT'S HORRIBLE!




YAHOO, SENIOR! I'LL PRETEND THAT I'M REALLY IMPRESSED
JUST REMEMBER: NO ONE ELSE IS CAPABLE OF SUCH RESOURCEFUL-NESS!


LEARN TO BE FRUGAL, EL. AS LONG AS THE THOSE THREE POINTS ARE COVERED, WHAT MORE DO YOU NEED?
GOOD-BYE, SOMU.


RIGHT!
I detect them there.
I hate you, Senior!
IT'S NOT FAIR! IF YOU HAVE TWO BITS OF CLOTHING, SHARE ONE!
WHAT?
Seethe!
HATE ME IN A LOWER VOICE, DUMMY.
BELIEVE ME, SENIOR THIS IS FAR MORE HUMILIATING FOR ME!
HEY! WHATCHERDOIN'!? GETYERHANDSOFF!


IF YOU WANT THEM BACK, YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL ME, SENIOR.
YOU DARE STEAL PANTS FROM A SUPERIOR OFFICER?
ゴ
ポイッ
ヒラ
ヒラ
HM.
YOU... I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS.
OK, JUNKPILE WHERE ARE THEY ?!
OH, HEY. GOOD IDEA, SENIOR!
I LIBERATE THESE DRAPES IN THE NAME OF ACROSS.
ブキ
ブキ
ドル
ゴルル


WHERE'S THE BAD BUTTERFLY?
SHUT UP! I SMELL VICTORY!
I'm not a junk pile!
UH... HOLD IT...
ブキッ
ブキ
WAIT! I WANT A WRAP, TOO!
EL! STEP ON IT!
THEY'VE FOUND US!
I DIDN'T MEAN TO GRAB A LACY CURTAIN!
NOW, AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU'VE STILL GOT THOSE BAND-AIDS?
HEY... STOP...


THEY'RE JUST TOO FAST!
OR MAYBE YOU'RE JUST TOO SLOW!
HISSS!
YEAH-- IT DOES LOOK BAD.
WOW!
NYA?
HERE, KITTY.
NYO?
FLAT-CHEST MISSILE!


WHOA!
EEEK!
urk
WAS THAT A BOMB? A GRENADE?
murder!
THE TRAGEDY OF CHILD SOLDIERS NOW EXTENDS EVEN TO LONG-RANGE ARTILLERY!
SHE'S... SHE'S DEAD!


ANYWAY...
WAIT! YOU'RE LIKE... UNDER CITIZEN'S ARREST, OR SOMETHING!
SHOULDN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL AFTER YOU DRAG HIM TO BEHEAD HIM? BECAUSE OTHERWISE, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO KNOW?
THE RUTHLESS GANGSTER! DEFINITION, VILLAIN! WHEN WE TAKE OVER, I'LL BEHEAD HIM AND DRAG HIS BODY THROUGH THE STREET, AND I'LL SEE HOW HE LIKES IT!
IT'S THE WIND-UP, AND...
MAYBE YOU CAN STILL OBTAIN PARTIAL SUCCESS!
HMM...
HOW ON EARTH COULD YOU HAVE MISSED THEM? I TRIED TO GIVE YOU SOME GUIDANCE!


huh?
...THE MOPPET PUNCH!
KYAAAAA!
OH, MY GOD! IT'S SO GROSS! GET IT OFF ME, SENIOR! PLEASE!
TACTICS, ELGALA, TACTICS. IF IT MAKES YOU RUN FAST OUT OF HORROR, IT'S A GOOD THING.
SCRAWNY LITTLE ROBOT FIST!
IT'S TIME I SHOWED THEM WHAT A REAL HUMAN BEING CAN REALLY DO WHEN HE'S REAL DETERMINED!


ニャコリマート
UM...
DON'T FORGET WHAT A REAL HUMAN BEING CANNOT DO, IWATA.
YES?
SHIOUJI.
OF COURSE... HER SENSORS WERE DAMAGED.
I'M GLAD I REACHED YOU.
WHAT? AND TURN DOWN THE VOLUME!
...NABE
KABAPU RESTAB-LISHEED DIRECT CONTACT... HOW?
JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE.
WELL... ER...
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO HAPPEN?
AS YOU LIKE.
ALL RIGHT. CAN I GO HOME NOW?
I'M AFRAID I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO ASSIST YOU WITH THE PRESENT MATTER (HE SAID AIRILY).


THEM GIRLS SURE CAN RUN FAST.
LET'S CALL IT A DAY.
THEY MUST BE HERE SOME-WHERE...
Aye must be, as usual, mez nae arguin' wi' Iwata's logic.
BUT THESE PANTS TELL ME THAT I'M ON THEIR TRAIL!
PANTS ?

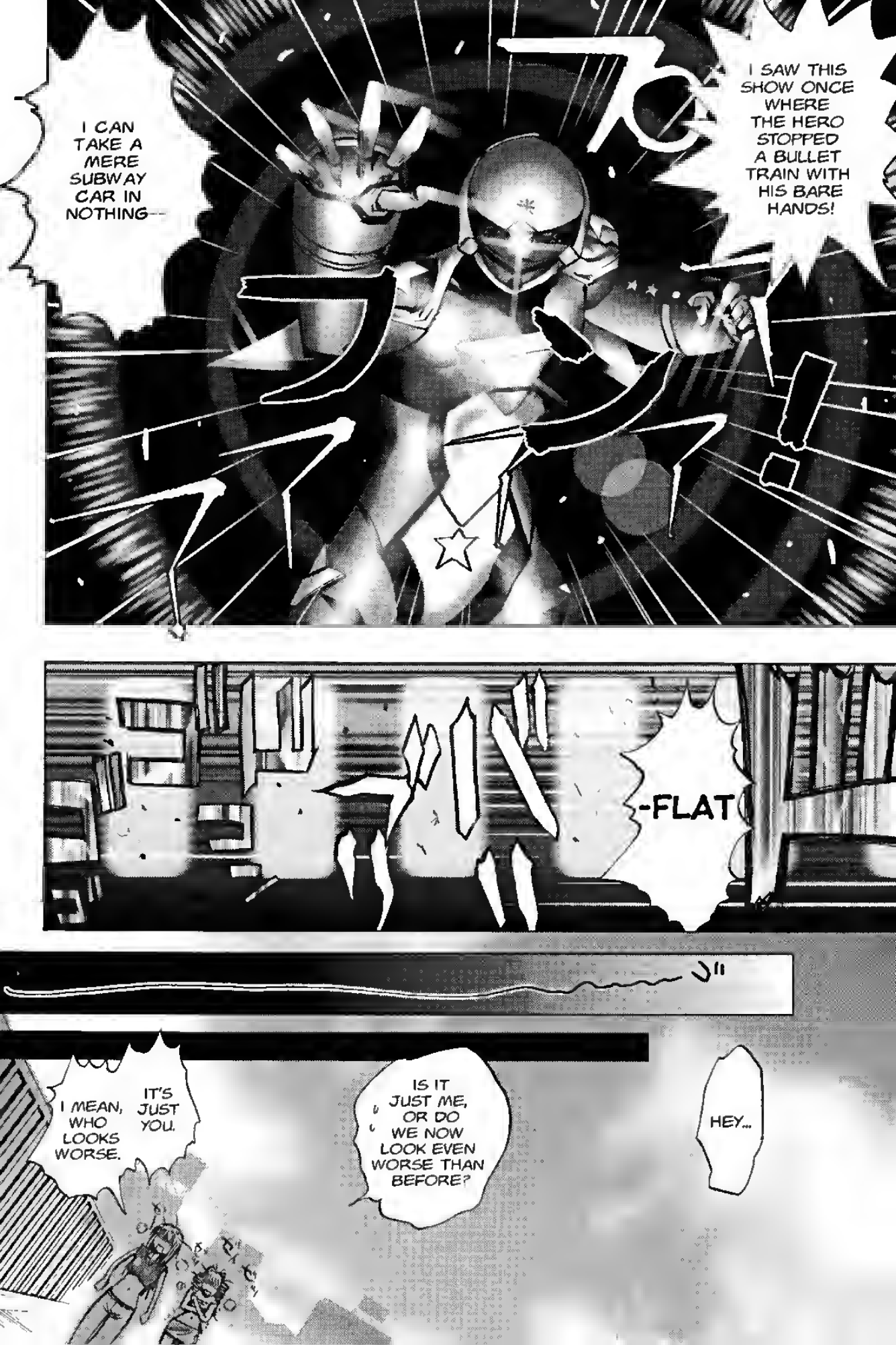

I KNOW WHERE THEY WENT...
IWAT-CHI.
huff! huff!
THE SCENT IS STILL WARM. THEY CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR.
AH-HA! SO THAT'S HOW THEY ABSCONDED!
REALLY? DOWN THERE?


I'LL SEE YOU GUYS LATER!
Ha! Ha! Ha!
Hai Hai Hai Hai Hai
Sur aal this time ye wuz just jurkin' around?
PLAYTIME'S OVER! NOW I'M REALLY GOING TO GET THEM!


HUH? THEN WHY'D YOU JUST TELL IWATA THAT?
I dunno.
Master says not to worry about the girls right now.
DID SHIOUJI GIVE YOU ANY ORDERS?


AH, HERE'S A DOOR.
ガギン
DAMN. THE SMELL MAY THROW ME OFF. AND UP
ガン ガン
WHAT'S THIS? A SEWER?


ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
HM... THE FLOOR'S SHAKING.
GETTING LOUDER, TOO
ガシャ
I DON'T THINK THEY'RE HERE.
LOUSY BRAT! I'LL BET SHE LIED TO ME.
ガシャ
ガシャン
SEEMS BIG.
CAN'T FEEL AHEAD.
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
WHY, THAT SOUNDS LIKE...
...THE 5:15!
プシュー
Wait a minute...


I CAN TAKE A MERE SUBWAY CAR IN NOTHING--
I SAW THIS SHOW ONCE WHERE THE HERO STOPPED A BULLET TRAIN WITH HIS BARE HANDS!
-FLAT
HEY...
IS IT JUST ME, OR DO WE NOW LOOK EVEN WORSE THAN BEFORE?
I MEAN, WHO LOOKS WORSE.
IT'S JUST YOU.


MIN-CHAN!
ヒャハー
OH!
ヒャン
HMPH. EASY FOR YOU TO TALK YOU FOUND ANOTHER PAIR OF PANTS--
RIGHT! WELL, WE'VE THROWN OFF THE PURSUIT, SO WE CAN RETRIEVE HA-CHAN!
キッ
YOU MEAN WE'RE BACK AT THE BATH?
WE MUST HAVE RUN IN A CIRCLE...
BUT WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!
ヒャ?
オオオオ
IT'S RIGHT DOWN THERE!







END MISSION 4


HEH.
YOU THINK I'M IMPRESSED?
WELL, I'M NOT IMPRESSED! MY TORSO WON'T BE PINNED BY CONCRETE FOREVER!
so watch out!
Iwat-chi, take it from me--you are a pervert


EXCELSIOR

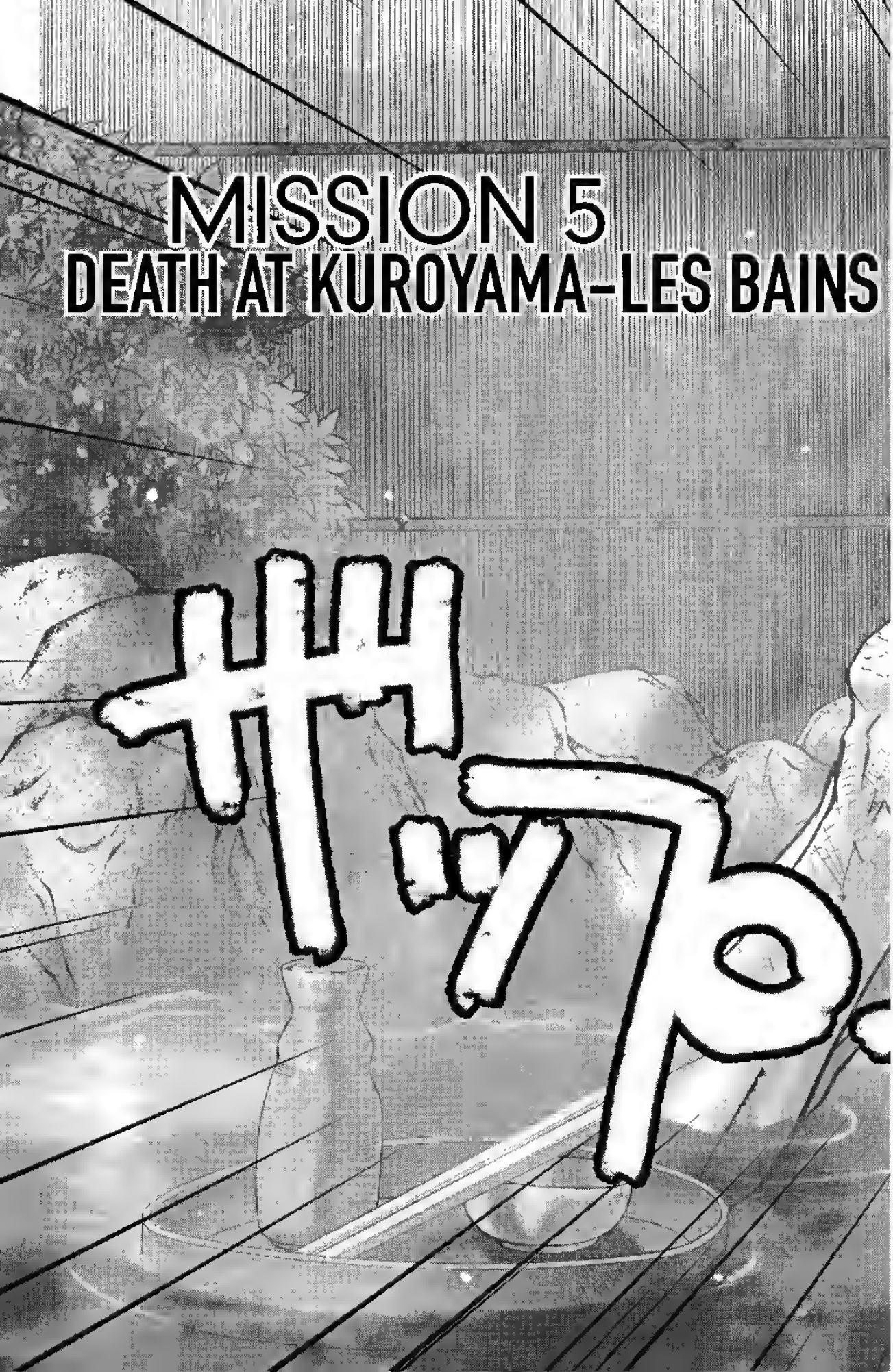
ミアアアア

ポーン
ポーン

カポーン


THIS
IS
PARADISE!

MISSION 5
DEATH AT KUROYAMA-LES BAINS




MMM, NICE HOT SAKE.
EH?
MISS MOMOCHI?


VERY WELL...
I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I'VE SENT YOU A DOCUMENT BY E-MAIL. I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD TAKE A LOOK WHEN YOU HAVE TIME.
I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU WHILE YOU'RE ON VACATION.
I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T FIND A NICER PLACE FOR YOU.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, MISS MOMOCHI. THIS IS QUITE GOOD ENOUGH.
PLEASANT... RUSTIC. I'M ENJOYING IT.
HOW IS IT DOWN THERE, DOCTOR?
I THINK I'LL HIT THE BATH AGAIN BEFORE TURNING IN--
FOR A MAN LIKE ME, IT'S THE FINEST LUXURY THERE IS.
YOU CAN'T IMAGINE HOW NICE IT IS TO BE HERE SIMPLY DOING NOTHING.
ゲフ!


GOOD LORD!
choke
THE CHAP'S BEEN STABBED IN THE BACK!


カポーン
WHO COULD HAVE DONE SUCH A THING...?
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
AND WHO CARES?
THAT MURDER HAD BETTER NOT WRECK MY HOLIDAY!
BETWEEN THE STRESS CAUSED BY IL PALAZZO'S ORGANIZATION AND SHIOUJI'S ENGINEERING, THIS LITTLE BIT OF TIME OFF IS VERY PRECIOUS TO ME!


I REFUSE TO BE BOTHERED BY THIS.
..NOW WHERE'S MY CELL PHONE..?
ガラ
WHAT?!
UNDER THIS MAN'S SOFT PALATE ?!
ドビッ!!
ドビッ!!


HMM... ANOTHER KILLING...
WELL, I'M NOT TOUCHING THAT THING NOW.


I'M UP TO MY NECK IN THIS-- EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
THE CONSE-QUENCES COULD PROVE MORE SERIOUS THAN JUST A SPOILT VACATION.
I CAN'T CALL MY MEN TO DISPOSE OF THE BODIES...
EVEN IF I DID, IT WOULD TAKE THEM HOURS TO GET HERE...
I CAN'T REMAIN HERE!
I'VE GOT NO LEVERAGE HERE. I'D HAVE TO RELY ON CITY HALL BACK HOME TO EXTRICATE ME!
SUPPOSE THEY WANT ME TO BE A WITNESS? I HAVE NO TIME TO SPARE FOR SOME SMALL-TOWN SLAYING!
ドス
ドス
ドス
ドス


AND I REFUSE TO BLOW ANY MORE OF MY BUDGET BRIBING THOSE HOOLIGANS!
AS SOON AS I'M BACK IN MY OFFICE, IT WILL BE AN EASY MATTER TO GET THIS COVERED UP...
EXCUSE ME! I'D LIKE TO CHECK OUT, PLEASE...
!!!
HM?
?
SHE'S DEAD!
CALL THE POLICE.
LOOK! ANOTHER BODY!
SOMEONE DIAL 110!
REST IN PEACE...
...MY VACATION.


AHHH... JUST ONE MORE THING, SIR.
MY NAME? KABAPU.
OH, SEE, WELL, MY WIFE, SHE ALWAYS SAYS I SHOULD ASK FOR IDENTIFICATION, JUST TO CONFIRM THINGS, SIR.
WHAT?
I AM NOT OBLIGED TO PROVIDE ID TO A PROVINCIAL HOMICIDE DETECTIVE.
YOU LOUSY C**KS**KER! HOW 'BOUT I TAKE YOU DOWN TO THE STATION, ROLL YOU UP IN SOME CARPET, AND BEAT YOU WITH SOME F**KIN' LENGTHS OF PIPE?!
YES, WELL, YOU MUST UNDERSTAND, LIEUTENANT, THAT EVEN A TRIPLE MURDER IS A MINOR AFFAIR COMPARED TO THE ISSUES I GRAPPLE WITH.
CAN I GO HOME NOW?

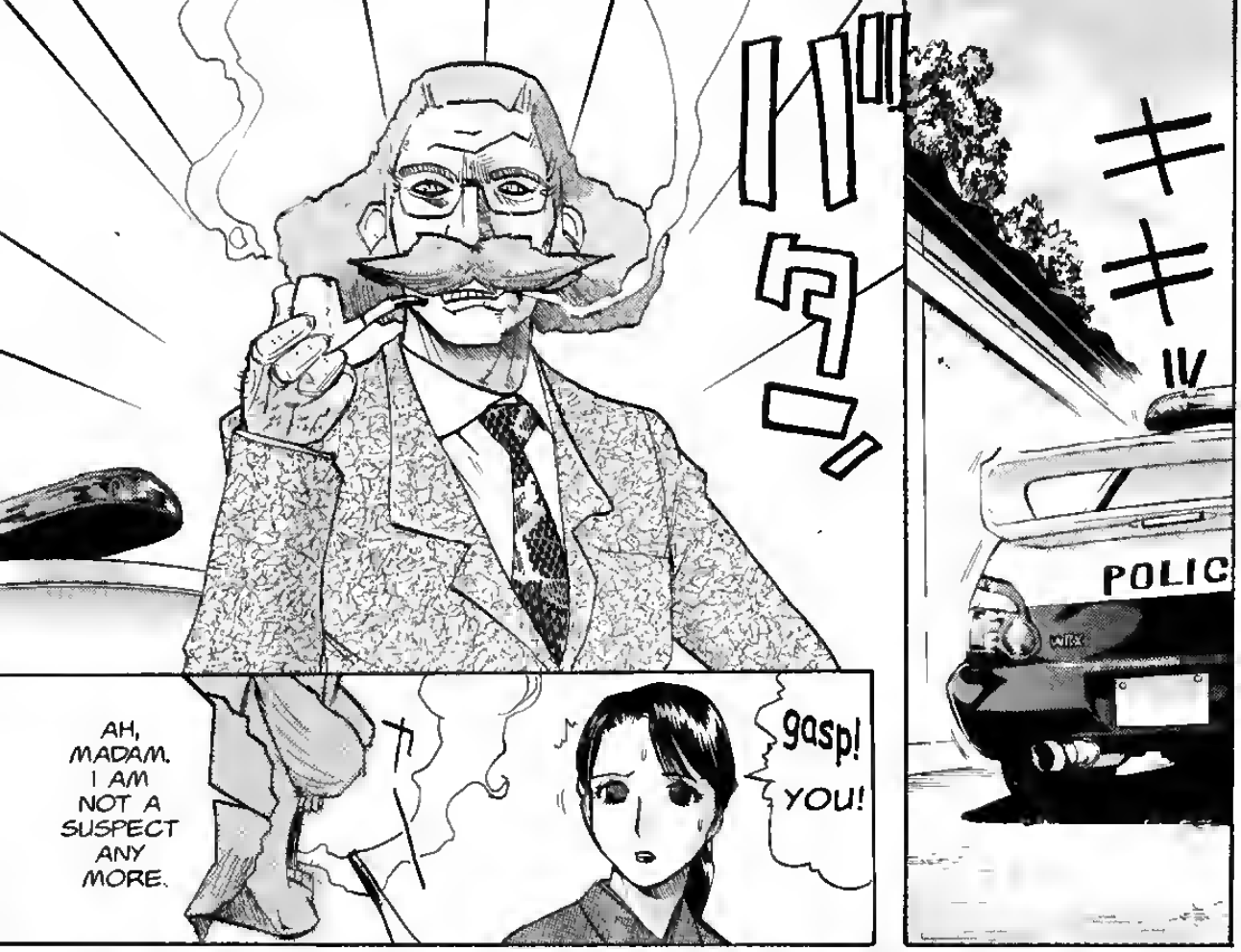

OH, LIEUTENANT-- THIS IS THE GUEST I TOLD YOU ABOUT!
AND THAT, SIR... WOULD GIVE ME GREAT PLEASURE INDEED, SIR!


OH, LIEUTENANT-- I SAW THIS GENTLEMAN USING THAT CELL PHONE!
IS THIS YOUR CELL PHONE, SIR?
WELL, THAT WAS BECAUSE...
I SAW THIS GENTLEMAN COMING OUT OF MR. NINOMIYA'S ROOM!


YOU'RE A VERY KIND MAN, LIEUTENANT.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THIS IS GOING TO BE TOO HARD TO FIGURE OUT, MISTER.
I REMEMBER! I WAS TAKING MY COLOSTOMY BAG INTO THE HOT TUB, JUST AS THIS MAN WAS COMING OUT!
EH! THAT'S HIM! THE YOUNG MAN WITH THE MUSTACHE!


I'M GONNA STICK YOUR D**K IN A LIGHTSOCKET AND CRANK UP THE JUICE UNTIL I CAN READ THE CONFESSION ON YOUR TEETH LIKE THE F**KIN' GOODYEAR BLIMP!
REMOVE THESE CUFFS AT ONCE, AND TAKE MY ADVICE TO BEGIN USING A CIGAR CUTTER--IT WILL KEEP THAT FILLER TOBACCO OUT OF YOUR MOUTH.
CRIPES, MISTER, THE LID KEEPS SPRINGING BACK AGAINST YOUR HAIR.
INSIDE! IN!
OKAY, BUDDY--I'M STUFFING YOU IN THE PEUGEOT. AND THE TRUNK IS VERY SMALL, SIR.
HOW FRIGHT-ENING..
REALLY! IS THIS QUITE NECES-SARY?


ろりぼいあ
W-WE'RE TERRIBLY SORRY, SIR!
AHEM. MAY I HAVE A LOOK AT THE CASE FILE?
WE'LL DRIVE YOU TO THE STATION, DOCTOR.. HEY! GET A CAR--
THE LIEUTENANT GETS A LITTLE ANGRY SOMETIMES, BUT HE'S A VERY GOOD DETECTIVE, SIR!
I MUST SAY THOSE BEDS YOU'VE GOT IN THE CELLS DON'T PROMOTE RESTFUL SLUMBER.
WELL, I SHOULD HOPE SO.
...IN PURSUING THIS AFFAIR ON MY OWN.
THE SWINE AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE DEMANDED TRIPLE.
I'M INTERESTED NOW...
HUH?

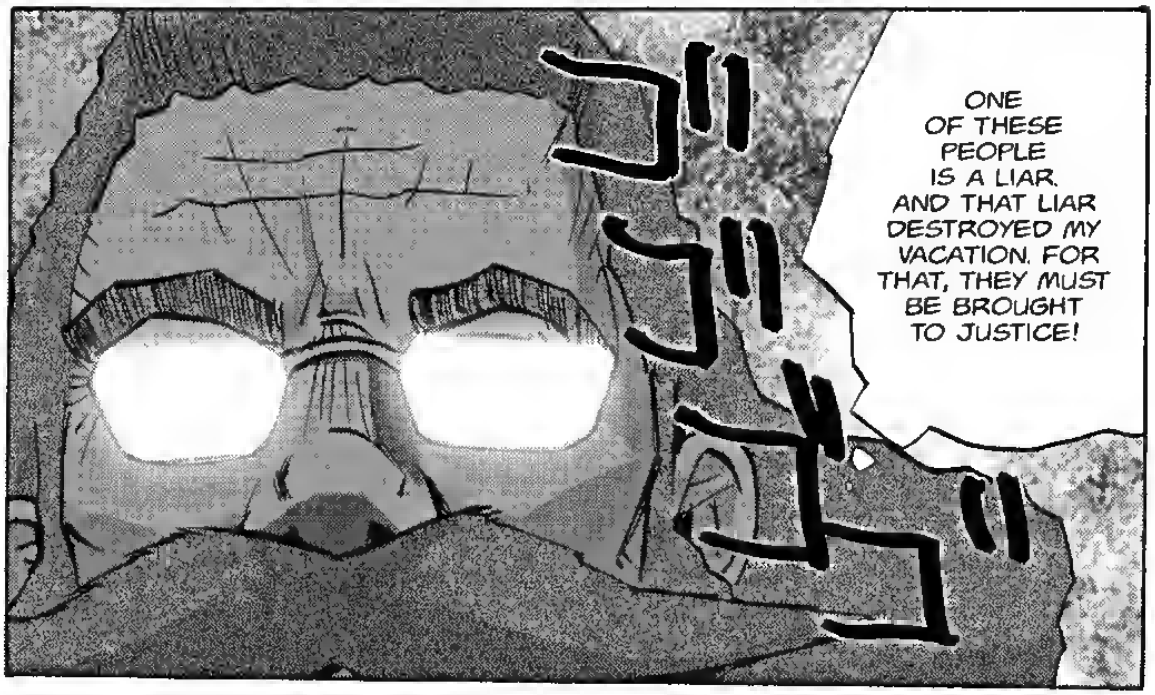

AH, MADAM. I AM NOT A SUSPECT ANY MORE.
gasp!
YOU!
POLIC


HMM.
THESE ARE THE SIX PEOPLE NOT TOO PHYSICALLY FEEBLE TO HAVE DONE IT.
huh?
what's going on?


NOT BY ME.
YES, SIR. F**K YOU, SIR.


THEY'VE ALREADY BEEN QUES-TIONED, SIR.
THE SUSPECTS ARE STILL HERE... AT THE INN.
UM...


I WAS ON THE PHONE ALL THAT TIME.
WITH WHOM? WELL, I WAS ASKING SOMEONE'S ADVICE...ON A PERSONAL MATTER_
The company employee: Satsuki Gion
!?
I WAS PRACTICING... MY MAGIC!
The brilliant magician: Papillon Tsukiguma
?
I WAS WORKING WHEN IT HAPPENED... I WAS BUSY CHECKING THE ACCOUNTS, BECAUSE SOME OF THE NUMBERS DIDN'T SEEM TO ADD UP...
The beautiful proprietress: Gofuku Enokida
!?
I WAS TAKING A BATH! IT'S A HOT SPRINGS, 'KAY?
The treasure hunter: Martina Springer
I NEVER LEFT OUR ROOM FOR MORE THAN FIVE MINUTES.
I WAS PUNCHING MR. SASAI BECAUSE HE SAID SOMETHING BLASPHEMOUS ABOUT ALLAH DURING OUR DISCUSSION IN FACT, IT WAS A RATHER TRIVIAL QUARREL.
The Supreme Leader for the Islamic Revolution: Terukuni Shimousui
!
I WAS DISCUSSING THE IRAQ PROBLEM WITH MY ROOMMATE, MR. SHIMOUSUI.
The TV anchorman: Tetsuryu Sasai


ゴゴゴゴゴ
ONE OF THESE PEOPLE IS A LIAR. AND THAT LIAR DESTROYED MY VACATION. FOR THAT, THEY MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!


AND ONE OF THESE SIX WILL HANG. I CAME BACK TO FERRET OUT THE MURDERER... BUT WHY DO I BOTHER?
THERE'S AN OLD PROVERB THAT SAYS, "MIGHT AS WELL BE HANGED FOR A SHEEP AS A LAMB."


I SHOULDN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THIS MYSTERY... AND YET...
MY MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE WHOLE WORLD!
END MISSION 5



MISSION 5.5
LITTLE HOUSE ON THE BIG SEA

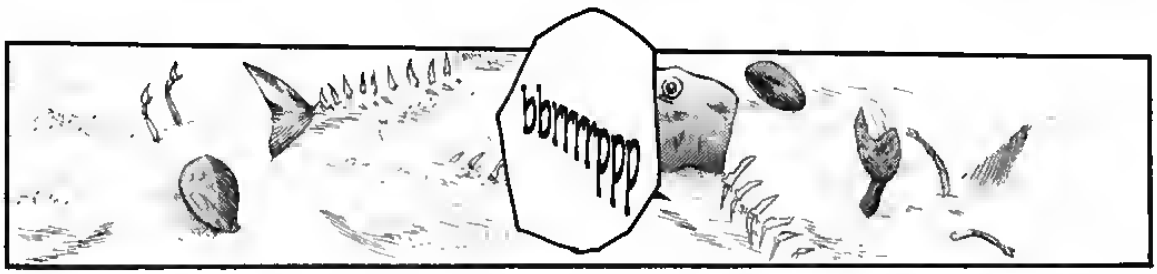

THIS TIME OF YEAR, THE BEACH IS DESERT-ED!
CHECK IT OUT! WALLS! A ROOF!
WE'LL BE SAFE FROM THE ELEMENTS IN THERE, BUT WHAT ABOUT FOOD, SENIOR?
BUT STILL, IT'S A ZILLION TIMES BETTER THAN A CARDBOARD BOX UNDER A BRIDGE.
IT'S FUNKY ALL RIGHT. I DON'T THINK THOSE POOR SHELLFISH LEFT INSIDE HAVE HEARD THEY'RE OUT OF SEASON.
NO ONE'S GONNA BOTHER US IF WE HOLE UP IN THIS SHACK! FUNKY LITTLE SHACK!
WHAT IS THIS... SURVIVOR: FUKUOKA...?!
CAN YOU NOT SEE THE LIMITLESS BOUNTY THAT STRETCHES BEFORE YOU?


SENIOR!
BUT I JUST CAN'T STAND HAVING THEM BEACH BUGS IN THE HOUSE.
パタ
パタ
ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ENOUGH CLEANING FOR NOW.
LOOK AT THESE!
TURBAN SHELLS!
DON'T THEY LOOK FIRM AND SUCCULENT?
YOU CAN FIND AS MANY AS YOU WANT OVER BY THOSE ROCKS.
HMM. EXCELLENT JOB, ELGALA!


HA! I CAN GO FOR FIVE WITH ONLY MINIMAL BRAIN DAMAGE!
LET'S LOOK FOR THEM! I CAN STAY UNDER WATER FOR THREE MINUTES!
HA HA HA HA HA!
ha! HA! HA! HA!
heh
gasp choke
Yes. I too almost just died.
kofp boy that water is rough
Let's cease this meaningless competition.





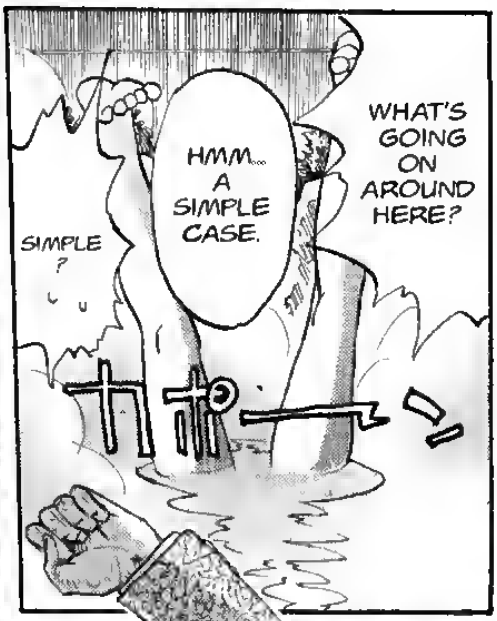

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I HEAR THERE'S OTHER FISH IN THE SEA.
Y'KNOW, THERE'S A BOAT IN THE STOCKROOM...
YOU'RE NEVER SATISFIED! BUT, HEY-- YOU'RE RIGHT.
I'M TIRED OF TIDEPOOLS.

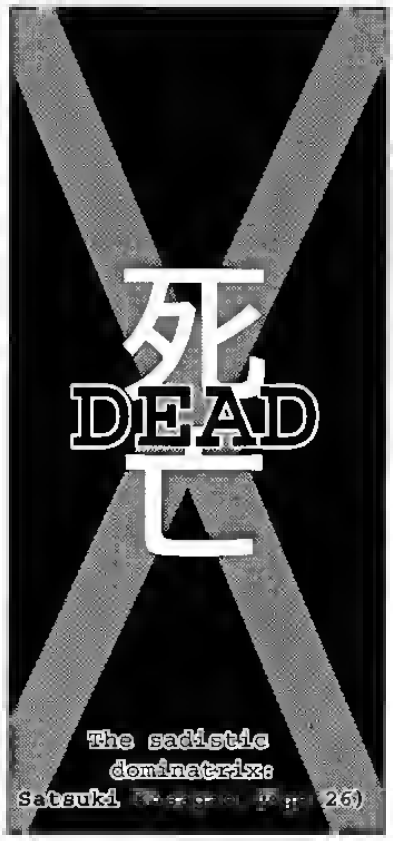

LET'S GO OUT AND HOOK A BIG ONE!
BEAUTIFUL DAY, ISN'T IT?

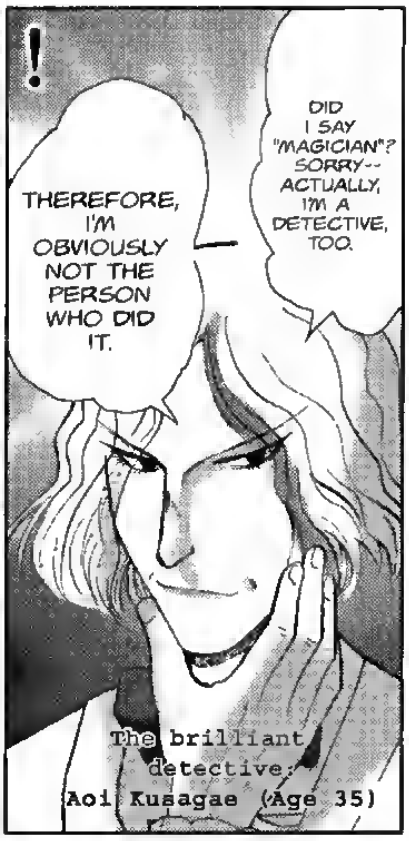

ANOTHER BODY!


YES... FOR YOU SEE, ONLY ONE OF YOU IS LYING.
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF EXAMINING YOUR STATEMENTS...


WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?
HMM... A SIMPLE CASE.
SIMPLE ?


WHAT WERE YOU REALLY DOING WHEN THE MURDER OCCURRED ?
YES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TELL ME...

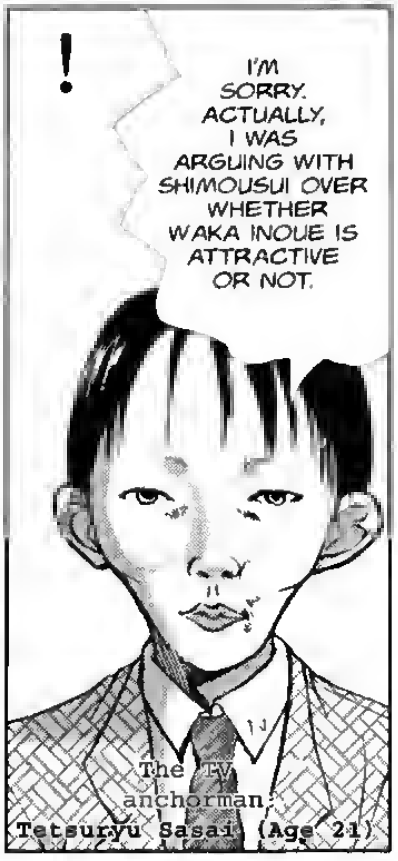

死
DEAD
The sadistic dominatrix:
Satsuki [illegible] (Age 26)

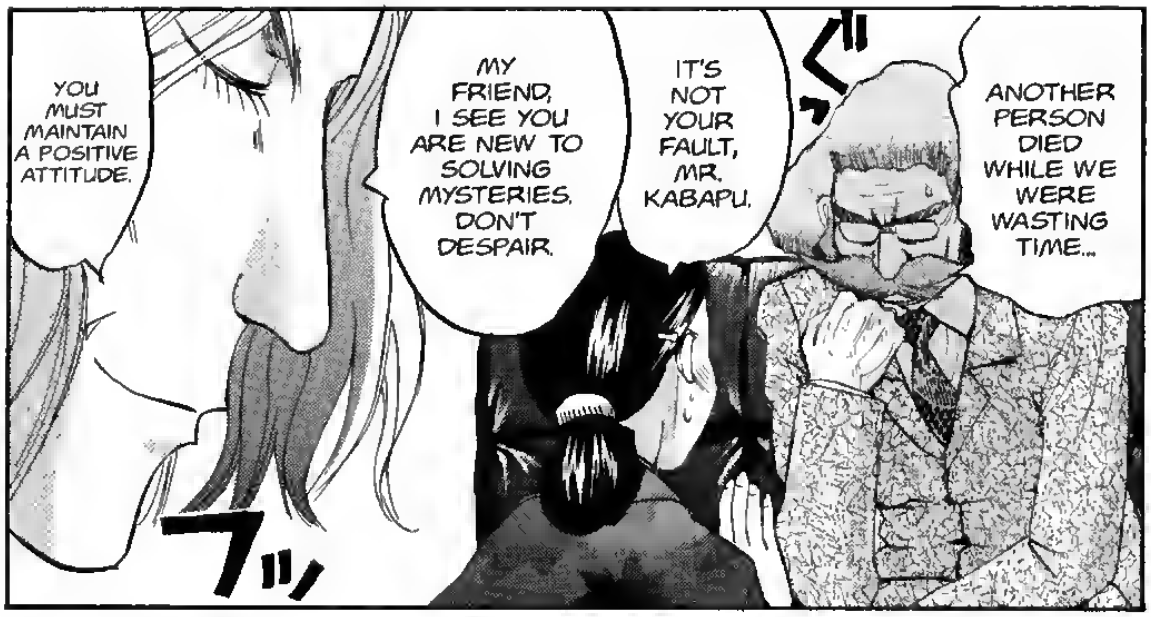

!
DID I SAY "MAGICIAN"? SORRY-- ACTUALLY, I'M A DETECTIVE, TOO.
THEREFORE, I'M OBVIOUSLY NOT THE PERSON WHO DID IT.
The brilliant detective:
Aoi Kusagae (Age 35)


I APOLOGIZE.. ACTUALLY, I WAS SEARCHING FOR THE PET ALLIGATOR I KEEP IN THE POND AT THE INN. HE'D GONE MISSING.
The beautiful proprietress:
Gofuku Enokida (Age 37)

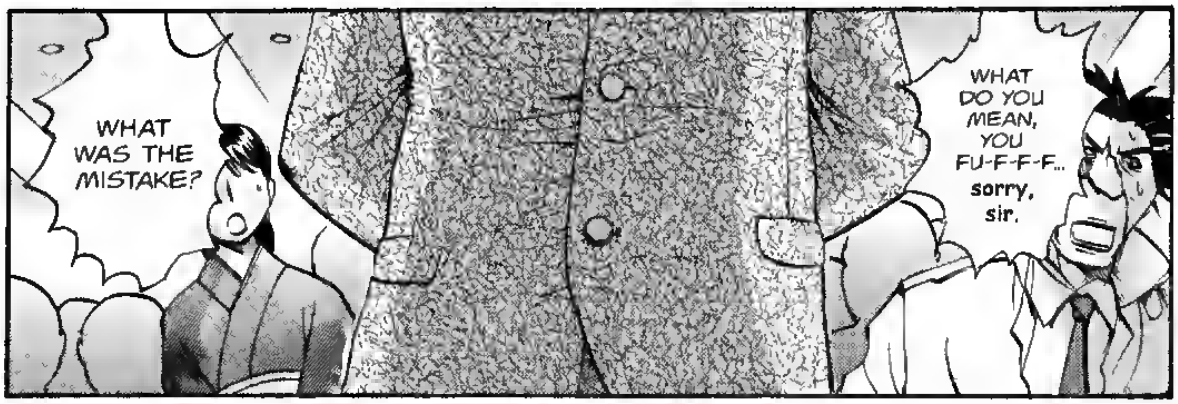

!?
JUST LIKE I SAID I WAS ASLEEP!
The treasure hunter:
Martina Springer (Age ?)

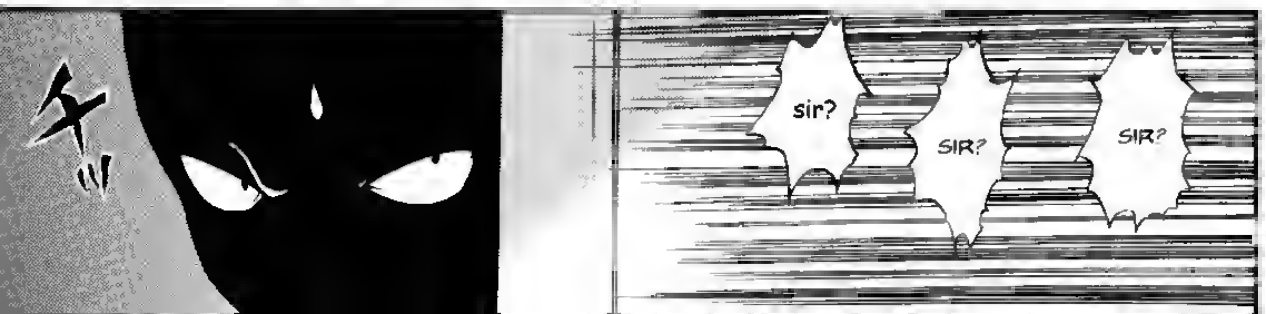

AND THAT PHOTO BOOK? WHAT KIND OF MONSTER ASKED HER TO WEAR THAT TACKY, SHAPELESS CHEF'S OUTFIT?
A THOUSAND PARDONS I ASK OF THEE. ACTUALLY, I WAS PUNCHING MR. SASAI BECAUSE HE SAID AN AWFUL THING ABOUT MY DEAR WAKA.
The Twelfth and-a-half Imam:
Terukuni Shimousui (Age 21)

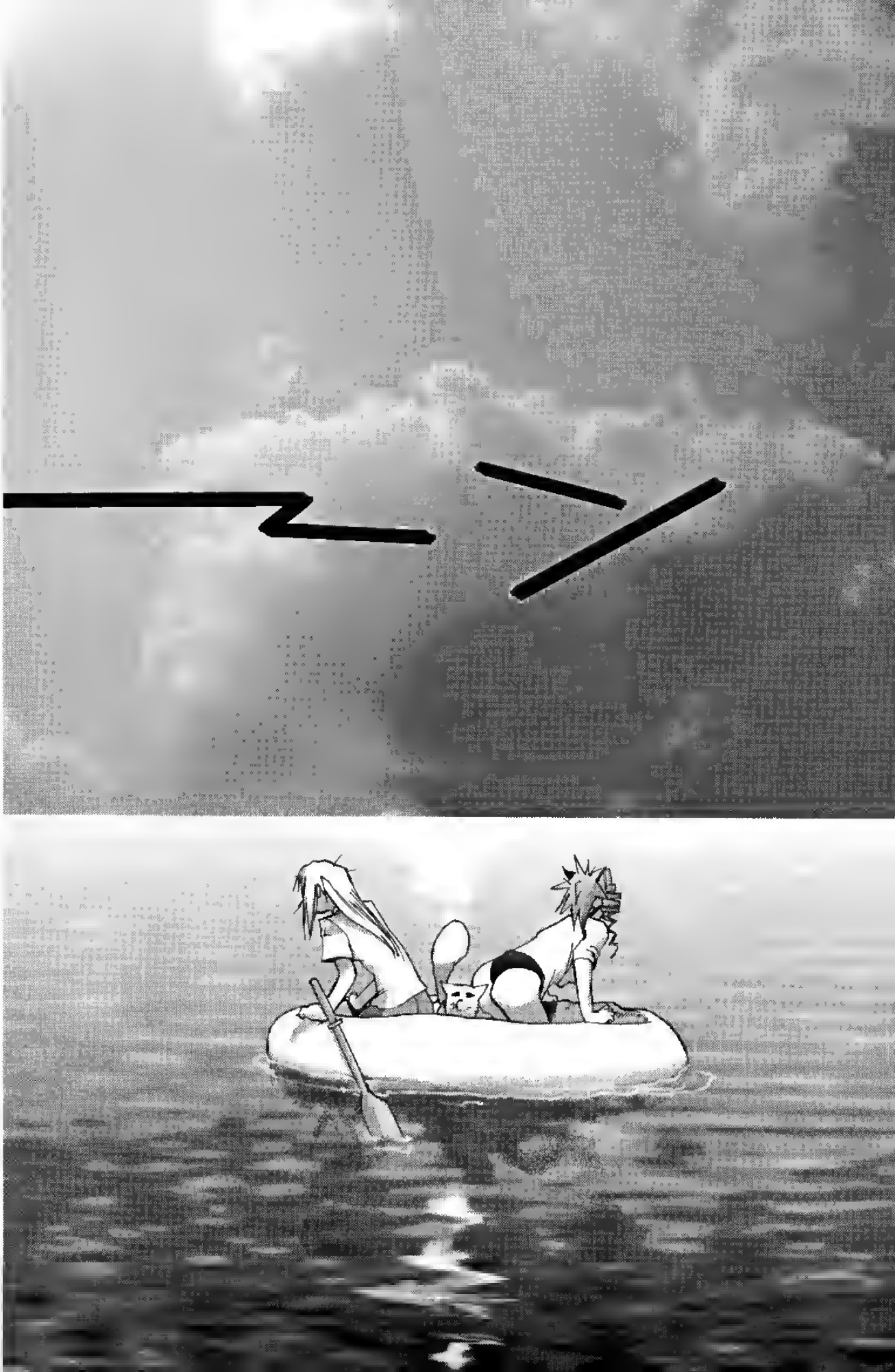

!
I'M SORRY. ACTUALLY, I WAS ARGUING WITH SHIMOUSUI OVER WHETHER WAKA INOUE IS ATTRACTIVE OR NOT.
The TV anchorman:
Tetsuryu Sasai (Age 21)

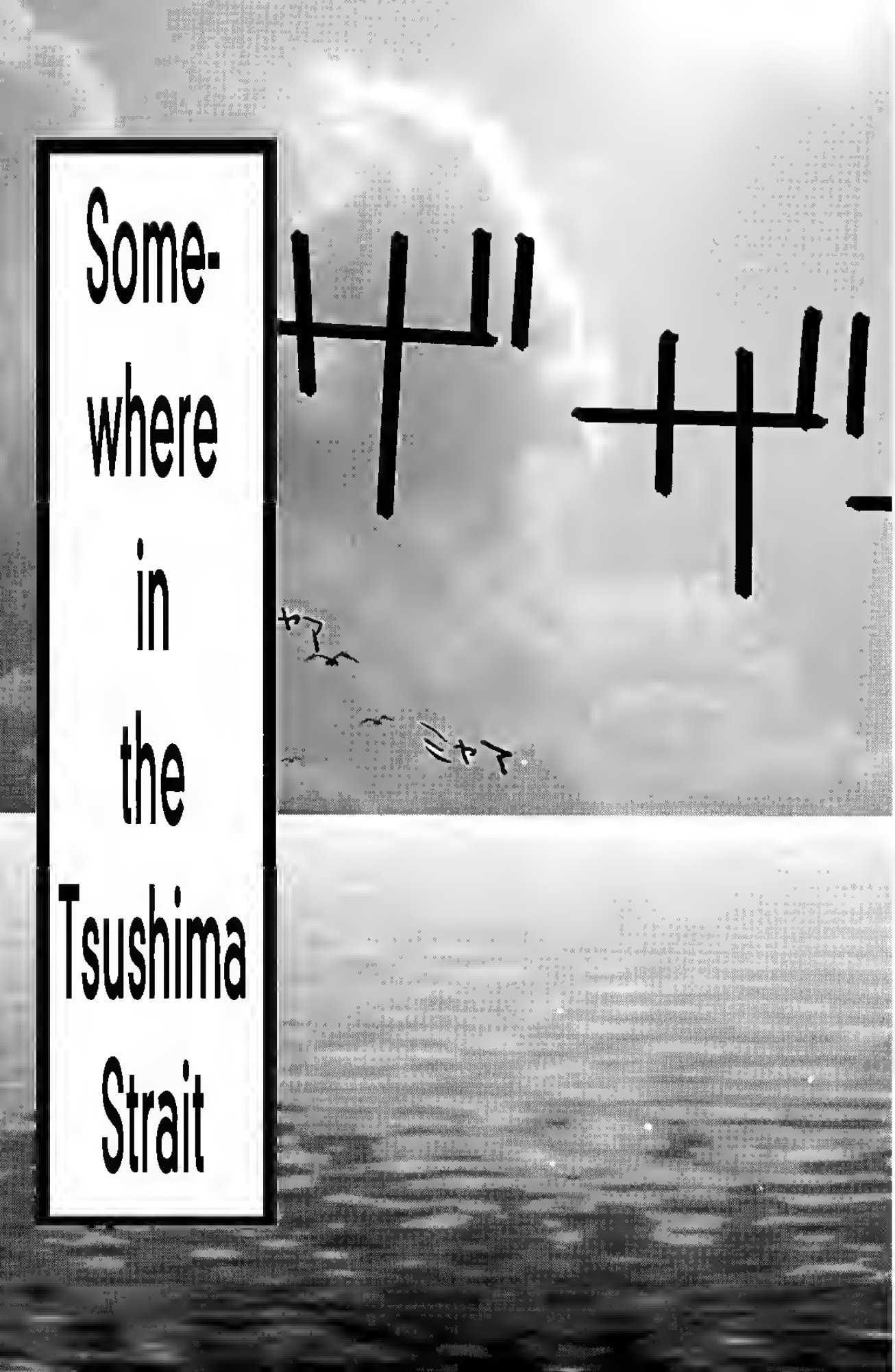

YOU MUST MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.
MY FRIEND, I SEE YOU ARE NEW TO SOLVING MYSTERIES. DON'T DESPAIR.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MR. KABAPU.
ANOTHER PERSON DIED WHILE WE WERE WASTING TIME...
フッ
JUST WHERE YOU SAID IT WOULD BE, SIR.
HOW IMPRESSIVE.
AH, MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT.
I FOUND IT, YOU ROTTEN HAIR-FACED PR**K! THE EMPTY BOTTLE OF POISON!
...THIS RAISES A VERY INTERESTING NEW QUESTION ABOUT THE CASE.
CAPITAL, LIEUTENANT. THERE'S ONLY ONE PROBLEM...
SIR, I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU! I'M GOING TO START TAKING MY PILLS, SIR!
ヒーデ


WHY DID THE MURDERER MAKE SUCH AN OBVIOUS MISTAKE?
(everyone else, in unison)
MISTAKE ?


WHAT WAS THE MISTAKE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU FU-F-F-F.. sorry, sir.

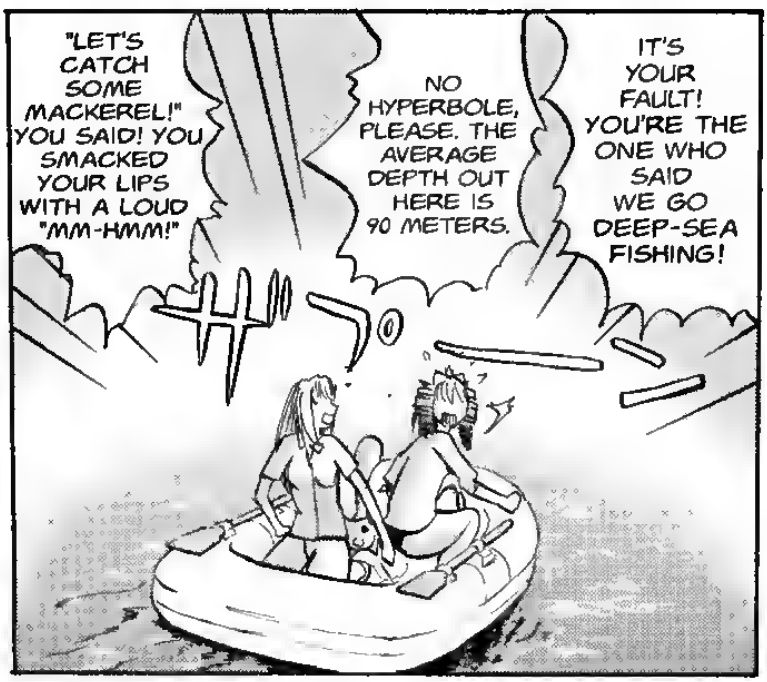

sir?
SIR?
SIR?




Some-
where
in
the
Tsushima
Strait


SENIOR! THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
I CAN'T SEE THE SHORE, SENIOR!
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU SEE ME HAVING A HEARTY CHUCKLE.
HMM. I'M AFRAID THE TIDE HAS CARRIED US AWAY.


ヒュー


"LET'S CATCH SOME MACKEREL!" YOU SAID! YOU SMACKED YOUR LIPS WITH A LOUD "MM-HMM!"
NO HYPERBOLE, PLEASE. THE AVERAGE DEPTH OUT HERE IS 90 METERS.
IT'S YOUR FAULT! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID WE GO DEEP-SEA FISHING!


SEE, WHAT I'LL DO IS, ELGALA, I'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL THOSE THINGS HAVE STOPPED SWINGING TO TRY AND TALK TO YOU.
I HATE THE OCEAN! I HATE BEING LOST AT SEA!
ブルブル
OOOO.
OH, THE HELL WITH IT. I'LL JUST PUNCH YOU IN THE FACE.
POSITION: UNKNOWN.
TIME UNKNOWN.
NO HELPFUL FLOATING DETRITUS.
RIGHT. CALM NOW? LET'S ASSESS OUR SITUATION.


FOOD?
hm?
WEIRD. CAN DOGS REALLY SWIM THE BUTTERFLY?
Quick, Elgala. The fishing pole.
OH, NO. MIN-CHAN!
OH, NO! MIN-CHAN!
body language: surrendered to fate
LOOK, MINCE. WE'RE ALL IN THIS TO-GETHER.

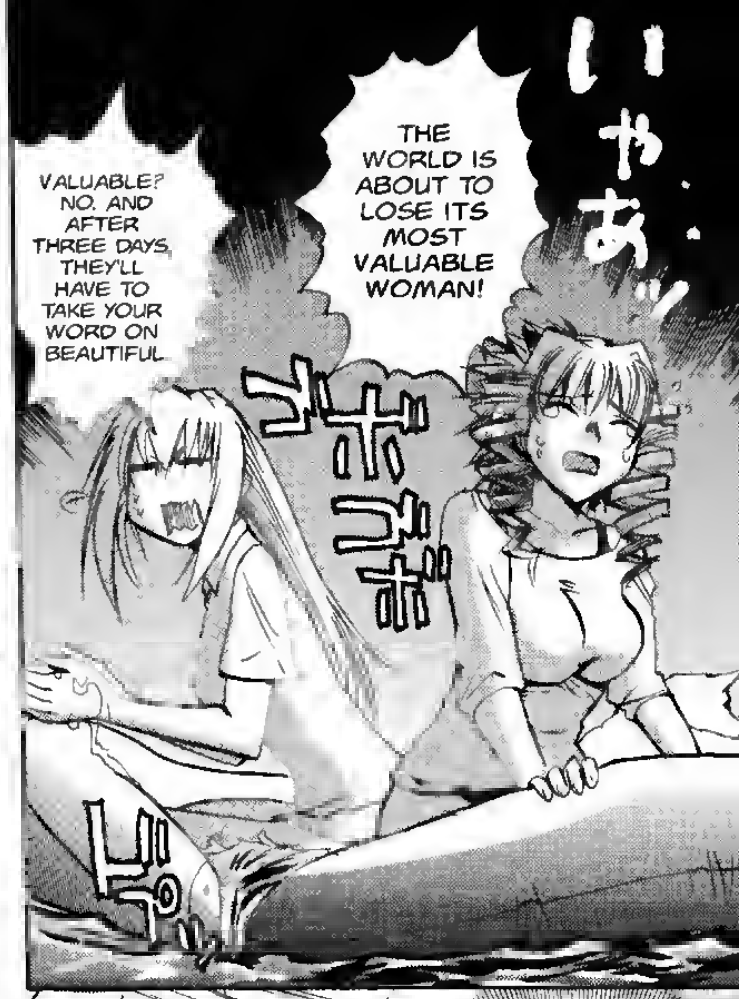

SO FAR THERE HASN'T BEEN MUCH POINT TO YOUR EXISTENCE, IT'S TRUE. BUT SOON, VERY SOON, YOU MAY BE CALLED UPON TO CARRY OUT YOUR ONE, TERRIBLE DUTY FOR ACROSS.
get it?
I KNOW DOGS LOVE TO PLAY IN THE WATER, BUT DON'T WASTE YOUR BODY FAT.
she got it.
Huh?
SENIOR EXCEL! NO!
MIN-CHAN WON'T BE ENOUGH TO KEEP US BOTH ALIVE FOR VERY LONG!
HMM. YOU'RE RIGHT.
I-I MEAN ...LET'S TRY TO CATCH SOME FISH FIRST!


WE LOST OUR APARTMENT, WE LOST HYATT, AND NOW WE'RE LOST AT SEA.
IF THIS IS, AS I SUSPECT, ANOTHER DIABOLICAL PLOT BY THE STATE, THEY'VE SUCCEEDED BIG TIME
I, ELGALA, THINK THIS WILL BE OUR WATERY GRAVE.
I FEEL AS IF I HAVEN'T SEEN LORD IL PALAZZO FOR MONTHS...
D-DO YOU THINK POOR SENIOR HYATT DIED?
WELL, YOU TELL ME. HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY DO THAT?


MM. AIN'T NOTHING LIKE SASHIMI STRAIGHT FROM THE WATER.
SENIOR, MY BUTT IS COLD.
I mean, derriere.
AND THERE'S AN UNPLEASANT SOUND COMING FROM IT.
IT'S NOT JUST MY IMAGINA-TION--
A LEAK!
is that a Kingston valve?
HEY! GET OUT OF HERE! YOU'VE GOT THE WHOLE OCEAN TO SLOSH AROUND IN!
IT'S AN OLD BOAT, SENIOR! IT'S STARTING TO COME APART!
THE LEAK IS WIDENING IN THE PALE MOONLIGHT!
A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN NAMED ELGALA RETURNS TO THE SEA WITHOUT GLORY!


I DON'T WANT TO BECOME A FLOATING CORPSE!
hideously bloated
YEAH. THEY SAY THEY'RE THE WORST.


BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT WE'RE IN QUITE A SPOT...

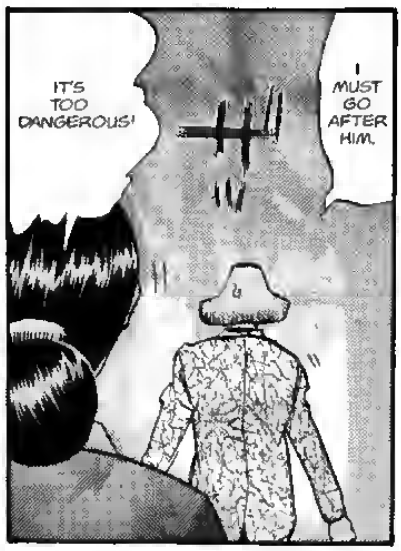

いやあ!!
THE WORLD IS ABOUT TO LOSE ITS MOST VALUABLE WOMAN!
VALUABLE? NO. AND AFTER THREE DAYS, THEY'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOUR WORD ON BEAUTIFUL.
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!?
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...LORD IL PALAZZO! THIS TIME, WE MAY REALLY BE GONERS.
I BEG YOUR GRACE! PLEASE! AT LEAST SAVE MY LIFE!

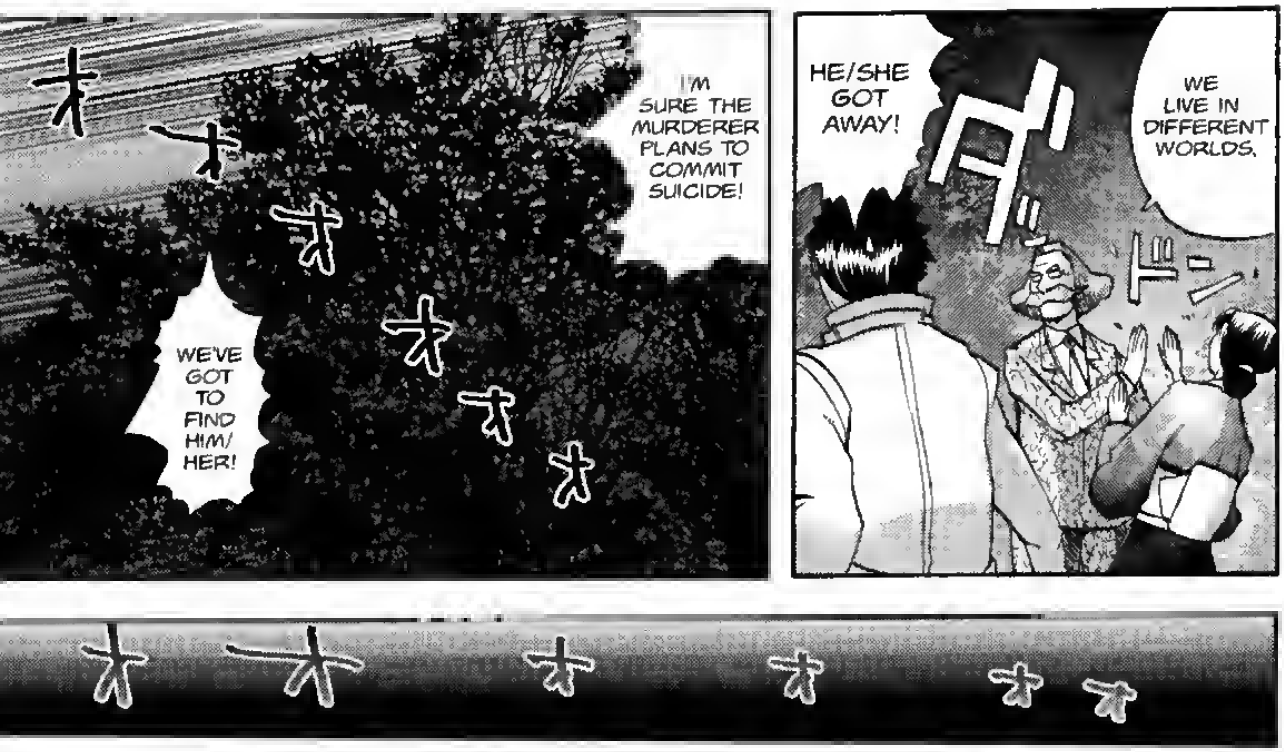

WHAT?
I SEE A LIGHT!
IT'S A SHIP! THERE'S A SHIP OVER THERE!
NO! I'M SURE I SAW IT! IT WAS FROM THAT DIRECTION!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING! MAYBE IT WAS JUST THE LIGHT FROM A STAR?!
LET'S SWIM FOR IT!
WELL, I GUESS FROM HERE ON WE HAVE TO SWIM ANYWAY, SO PLEASE DON'T LIE ABOUT A DESTINATION JUST TO CHEER ME UP.


THE KILLER... IS HIDING OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS!


PLEASE! JUST STAY HERE!
BUT IF I DON'T APPREHEND HIM, I CAN'T HAVE REVENGE FOR MY VACATION.


IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
I MUST GO AFTER HIM.


DON'T YOU KNOW... I...I'M IN LOVE WITH Y--


I'M SURE THE MURDERER PLANS TO COMMIT SUICIDE!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM/ HER!
HE/SHE GOT AWAY!
WE LIVE IN DIFFERENT WORLDS.


I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS MEETING
I DISAGREE. HE WAS A FAR BETTER DETECTIVE THAN I.
I CHANGED MY MIND, SIR! YOU'RE A F"KIN' IDIOT!
SURE.
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP, DOCTOR!


?!? WHAT...
...AM I DOING?


SENIOR! I SEE SHARKS!
MAN! THIS THING IS HUGE. I WONDER IF IT'S AN OIL TANKER.
IS THERE A 100-METER CHAIN CLIMB?
THERE IS NOW.
IT'S REALLY hahh MYSTERIOUS.
HOW hahh STRANGE.
I WONDER WHY ALL ITS LIGHTS ARE OFF...?
SEE? I WAS RIGHT! SAY, "THANK YOU, SENIOR EXCEL!"
THANK YOU, LORD IL PALAZZO!


I MEAN, AT ANCHOR ALL THE WAY OUT HERE, IN TOTAL DARKNESS...
AND WHERE'S THE CREW...?
DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING ODD ABOUT THIS?
HOW CAN SHE SAIL WITH NO WIND IN HER SAILS AND NO TIDE?
ARE YOU SAYING... IT'S A...
SHRIEK!

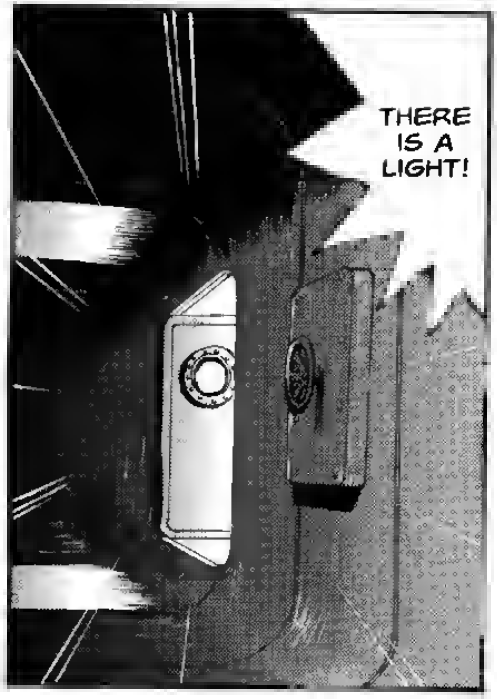

EARTHLY THINGS, SENIOR! EARTHLY THINGS!
...G-G-G-GHOST SHIP!? THAT'S RIDICULOUS! ANYWAY, I'M NOT SCARED OF G-G-G-GHOSTS! THE ONLY EARTHLY THINGS I FEAR ARE MY WEAKNESSES AND LORD IL PALAZZO'S REPRIMANDS!
WHAT? WHERE?
S-SENIOR! THROUGH THAT PORTHOLE! A LIGHT!
ヒィ
HMPH. THIS IS SILLY...
ボォ…
...THAT WAY--
I'M SURE OF IT, SENIOR! IT WAS...
ピク
I DON'T SEE IT!


(sudden silence)
HOWLLLLL!
SENIOR! LET'S GET OFF THIS SHIP! I'M SERIOUS!
UH-UH. FINS IN THE WATER, REMEMBER? SNAP, SNAP.
LOOK, WHICH DO YOU PREFER: BEING MURDERED ON A SHIP, OR EATEN IN THE OCEAN? I MEAN, IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE.
フルフル
WELL... IN THE MOVIES... THE MANIAC ALWAYS KILLS THE PRETTY GIRL...
GREAT! IT'S DECIDED THEN.
スタ
スタ
IS ANYBODY HERE? ANYBODY WITH A BIG BUTCHER KNIFE?


I'D RATHER DIE THAN ADMIT TO HER THAT I'M AFRAID!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ADMIT A THING, ELGALA
HMM? HEY, LOOK!


HELLO?
ガシャ
IT'S T-T-TOO DARK TO SEE!


no you conquer them
conquer your fears
what if it's a ghost
go check it out


THERE IS A LIGHT!


AUGH!
LESS THOUGHT, MORE ACTION!


oww...
...huh?
TH-THE L-LIGHT WENT OFF...
which of course, makes it even scarier
WELL? WAS IT OKAY?
!?
EEEEEEEE


MR. OWNER!
HI.
JA, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE YOU TWO.
AND MS. MANAGER!


YOU BOUGHT IT!?
I BOUGHT IT.
NO, I AM THE OWNER OF THIS SHIP.
DID YOU GET PROMOTED SIR?
SO YOU'RE NOW THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP?
WELL, THINGS HAPPEN-ED.
ACH! YOU ARE THE STOWAWAYS, ISN'T IT?
I MEAN, ISN'T IT TOO HEAVILY ARMED?
IT'S STILL UNDER RENOVA-TION
I WILL CONVERT IT INTO A LUXURIOUS FLOATING HOTEL.
WOW! WHAT AN IDEA!
It sounds very ambitious.
IT'S A BOLD PLAN, BUT...
...I WONDER IF GUESTS MAY HAVE TROUBLE RELAXING FROM THEIR WORRIES AND CARES.
SOON WE SHALL BE A TOP-RANKED VACATION SPOT! WIR FAHREN GEGEN DISNEYLAND, JA?
UH... YEAH! HEY! WHAT WE WANTED TO ASK YOU, IS...


WOULD YOU MIND DROPPING US OFF AT THE PORT OF FUKUOKA, OR, FAILING THAT, THE PORTS OF MATSUURA, SASEBO, OR KITA-KYUSHU? WE DON'T MIND A BIT OF A WALK.
SO...YEAH... IT WAS LIKE THAT...WE'VE BEEN LOST AT SEA... AND NOW WE JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO SOME SEMBLANCE OF HOME.
LOOK, WE APOLOGIZE FOR SNEAKING ONTO YOUR SHIP, BUT WE HAD NO CHOICE, AND..
HA! WHY DO YOU NOT TELL THEM THE TRUTH, OWNER?
ER, UM... WHY?
I CAN'T DO THAT.
WHAAAAAAAT?
YEAH.. THAT'S RIGHT.
WE ARE ADRIFT WITHOUT POWER, ISN'T IT?


OUR BASIC SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED!


SINCE I WAS UNABLE TO REACH YOU, I USED MY DISCRETION TO RESCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENTS, DOCTOR.
THAT'S FINE.
WAS THERE SOME TROUBLE THERE?
WELL...
HOW WAS YOUR VACATION, SIR?
THERE WERE SOME STRANGE COMPLICATIONS, BUT IT WAS ODDLY FULFILLING.
YOU TOOK UP A PIPE, SIR?
A NICE VACATION, THEN.
...IT'S KIND OF INTERESTING TO EXPERIENCE THE PROBLEMS THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE DEAL WITH.
...MY BASIC SITUATION HAS NOT IMPROVED
DESPITE EVERY-THING
END MISSION 5.5


SENIOR.
DO YOU THINK THE OWNER AND THE MANAGER ARE LOVERS?
I GUESS SO. IN FACT, THEY'RE SO WELL MATCHED, IT'S ALMOST FRIGHTENING.
Go to sleep

EXCEL SAGA


HEY, SENIOR.
HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU HAD YOUR FIRST KISS?
GO TO SLEEP!
What's that supposed to mean?


LORD...
LORD IL PALAZZO...
ゴゴゴ
CARTIER...
FERRAGAMO...


OW
ゴト


WHERE'S MY VUITTON ?
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
AN EXPLOSION ?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
they're . . p-pressing into my throat
SENIOR, HOW COULD THEY? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE WE ARE!
COULD IT BE OUR ENEMIES? HAVE THEY FOUND US?
WHERE IS THAT SOUND COMING FROM? WHERE?
THIS APPEARS TO BE A MAJOR ATTACK!



MISSION 6
MON., MON., MON., TUE., WED., THUR., THUR., AND THUR.


NOW
I REMEMB--


THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE ME?!?
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THE ENEMY FOR HARMING MY ELGALA!
bounce
bounce
LET'S SEE... SOMEONE TO BEAT UP...
NOPE! NO ONE ON DECK!
WAIT! THAT BALD GLINT!

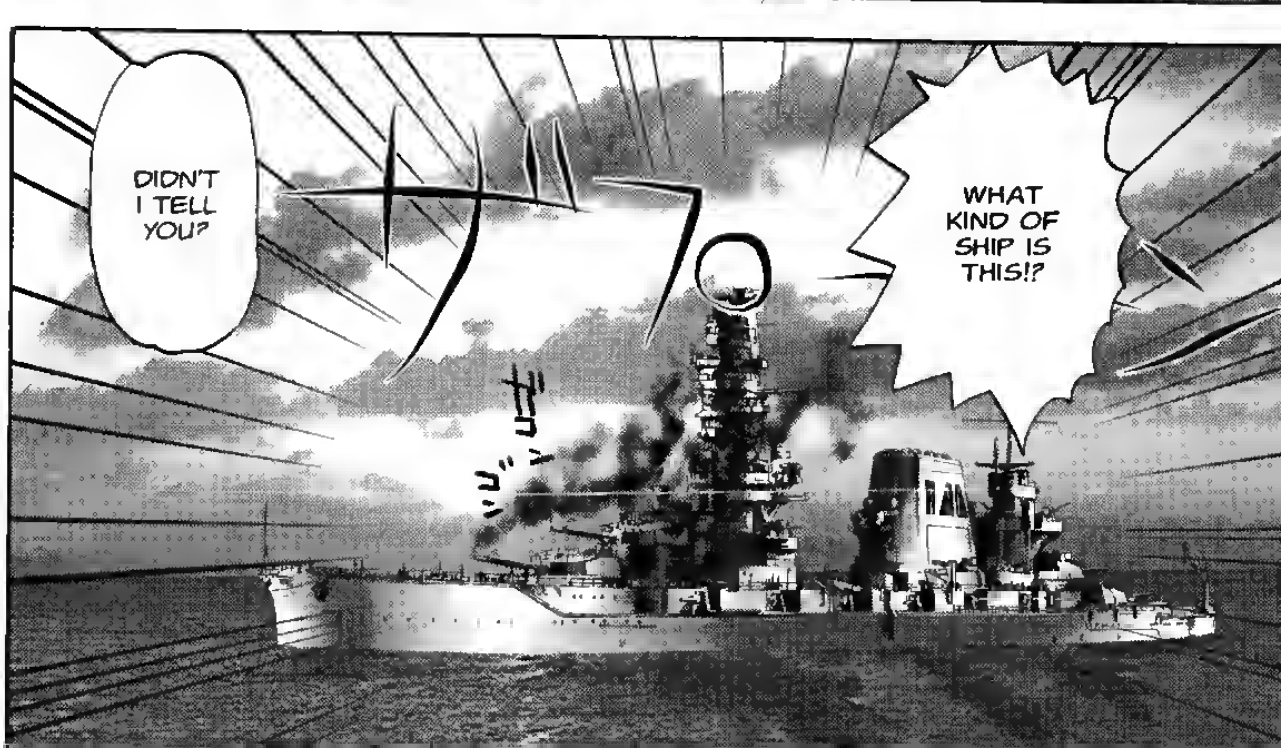

MR. OWNER! MR. OWNER!
HE CAN'T HEAR ME... OH. HE NOTICED.
HMMM?
WHAT?
...TO MY RIGHT?
A SPEAKING TUBE?
OH, THIS IS SO ANALOG!
HELLO! MR. OWNER?


IT'S DANGEROUS DOWN THERE.
アゴン
ビビビ
ドドオオ


AYE-AYE!
CEASING FIRE!
CEASE FIRE!
CEASE FIRE.
OH.
I HOPE THEY'RE OKAY.
JA, MOST WOULD NOT SURVIVE.
BUT THESE GIRLS ARE DURABLE, EVEN UNDER STRAFE.
ACH, THAT MUST BE THEM NOW.
ドドド


TSK? TSK? WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL US!?
DID WE WAKE YOU UP?

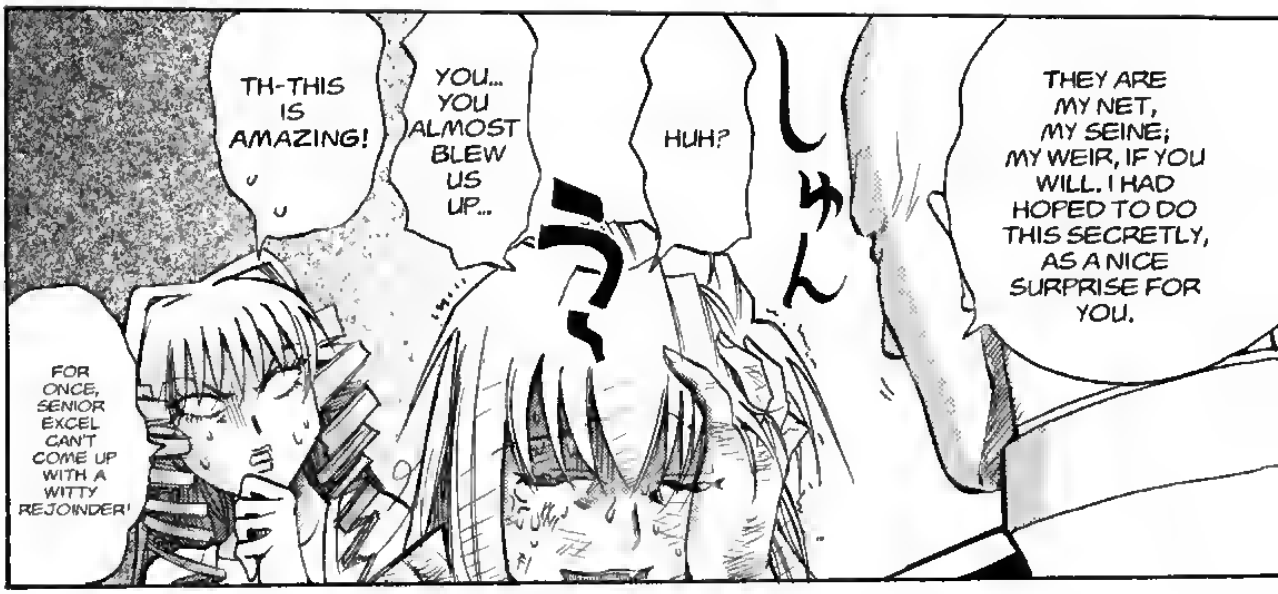

IT IS NOT YET THE VIER JAHRES-ZEITEN, BUT WE ENDEAVOR, JA?
SLEEP? SLEEP? WHO COULD SLEEP THROUGH THAT!?
WE MEANT TO DO THE FIRING WHILE YOU WERE ASLEEP.
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ


DIDN'T I TELL YOU?
WHAT KIND OF SHIP IS THIS!?
ゴゴゴゴ


I OWN IT. THERE-FORE IT ISN'T.
CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS NOTHING BUT A BATTLESHIP !?
HUH?
I'M CONVERTING IT INTO A LUXURY HOTEL.
CALLED WHAT? THE FLOATING CASTLE OF DEATH INN AND SUITES!?
...I'VE BEEN HOPING TO SERVE YOU SUPPER.
YOU SEE... EVER SINCE YOU CAME ABOARD...
WHAT WERE YOU FIRING AT, IF NOT US?
ANYWAY... THIS ISN'T REALLY THE POINT...
WITH 14-INCH SHELLS?
I AM FISHING.


WHAT... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
HUH?
I USE THEM. THEREFORE THEY AREN'T.


70
カァー


TH-THIS IS AMAZING!
YOU... YOU ALMOST BLEW US UP...
HUH?
しゅん
THEY ARE MY NET, MY SEINE; MY WEIR, IF YOU WILL. I HAD HOPED TO DO THIS SECRETLY, AS A NICE SURPRISE FOR YOU.
FOR ONCE, SENIOR EXCEL CAN'T COME UP WITH A WITTY REJOINDER!


THANK YOU! AND WHEN'S THE FIRE DRILL?
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, WE ASK THAT GUESTS NOT VENTURE OUT ONTO THE DECK UNTIL WE HAVE CEASED FIRE.
IT'S THE SHOCK THAT DOES IT, YOU SEE. IN VIETNAM THEY USED GRENADES IN THE RIVER.


THE MEAL IS ON US, ISN'T IT?
GO AND AVAIL YOURSELVES OF THAT FLOATING FEAST.
IT'S... IT'S... IT'S... A CAFETERIA !?


IF THEY WEREN'T SO FRESH, IT'D MAKE ME SICK.
ザワン ザザア
WOW.
...THE JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE CLAIMS THAT IT ISN'T AN ARMY.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
HOW COULD HE CLAIM THAT IT ISN'T A BATTLE-SHIP?
ELGALA, THAT THING IS ARMED TO THE TEETH!
IT REALLY BRINGS HOME THE COST OF WAR.
I ALWAYS WONDERED HOW THEY GOT TUNA INTO THOSE LITTLE CANS.
THOSE THAT AREN'T STUNNED ARE BLOWN TO BITS.
トローズフローン
HEY, THERE'S STILL A LOT TO EAT ON THIS ONE! BUT ISN'T IT WEIRD HOW THIS SAME THING WOULD BE TOTALLY DISGUSTING IF IT WERE A COW?
I GUESS WE WENT DEEP-SEA FISHING AFTER ALL, SENIOR.
WAS HE PLANNING ON THIS FOR HIS REGULAR VISITORS? SORT OF LIKE, WHEN YOU GO TO HAWAII, THEY DO A LUAU?
ザザアン


ホールパーティ
HEY, SENIOR, IT JUST OCCURRED TO ME--WE'RE WEARING SAILOR SUITS. I MEAN, HOW MANY GIRLS WHO WEAR SAILOR SUITS ARE ACTUAL SAILORS?
WHERE WAS HE KEEPING ALL THIS CREW?
To make him happy, perhaps I should refer to them as "staff."
THROW YOUR GROG IN THE AY-AIR... FOR THE FIRST GUESTS AT OUR HOTEL!
ゴゴゴゴゴ
...A 200-METER LONG, UNIDENTIFIED SHIP, SEEN FIRING ARTILLERY? NEAR CHINESE TERRITORIAL WATERS?
WOULD YOU REPEAT THAT?
ドルルルル


YOU SEEM RATHER BUSY, SO I'LL JUST EXCUSE MYSELF.
HOLD IT!
WE AREN'T THROUGH YET!
WHAT? NO, I WAS TALKING TO SOMEONE ELSE.
THE SATELLITE PICKED UP THE VESSEL?
WELL, WHAT ABOUT THE MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY?
NOT ON THEIR RADAR SCREENS? ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY IT'S SOME SORT OF STEALTH SHIP?
IT'S MORNING ALREADY, DOCTOR.
MAY I GO HOME NOW?
IT COULD BE A FOREIGN WARSHIP, OR IT COULD BE PIRATES...
..IT'S NOT THE CONCERN OF MY OFFICE!
LOOK, I'M VERY BUSY. WHY DON'T YOU HANDLE THIS MATTER IN WHATEVER MANNER YOU SEE FIT AND THEN REPORT TO MISS MOMOCHI LATER?
WHEN I SAY "IN WHATEVER MANNER," I MEAN IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER!
GOOD LORD! MUST I SOLVE EVERYONE'S MYSTERIES ?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT...ABOUT ROPPONMATSU'S SECURITY...UH...WHERE WERE WE?
WHEREVER WE WERE, I WANT YOU TO MAKE A THROUGH REVIEW OF HER WEAK POINTS.
SHE'S STILL TOO UNPREDICTABLE TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY ON OUR BEHALF...


カーン
カーン
YEP. JUST ABOUT GOT THE SMOKING SHED FINISHED.
SENIOR, CAN I STOP GUTTING FISH NOW?
YOU GIRLS HAVE A LOT OF ENERGY.
THANK YOU! ♬
STRIPPED ME DOWN IN LAST NIGHT'S POKER GAME, DIDN'T YOU? TONIGHT, MAYBE I'M GOING TO SEE SOMETHING!
I, KASUMI, AM NOT GOING TO LOSE!
WELL, SHE SURE MADE FRIENDS QUICKLY.

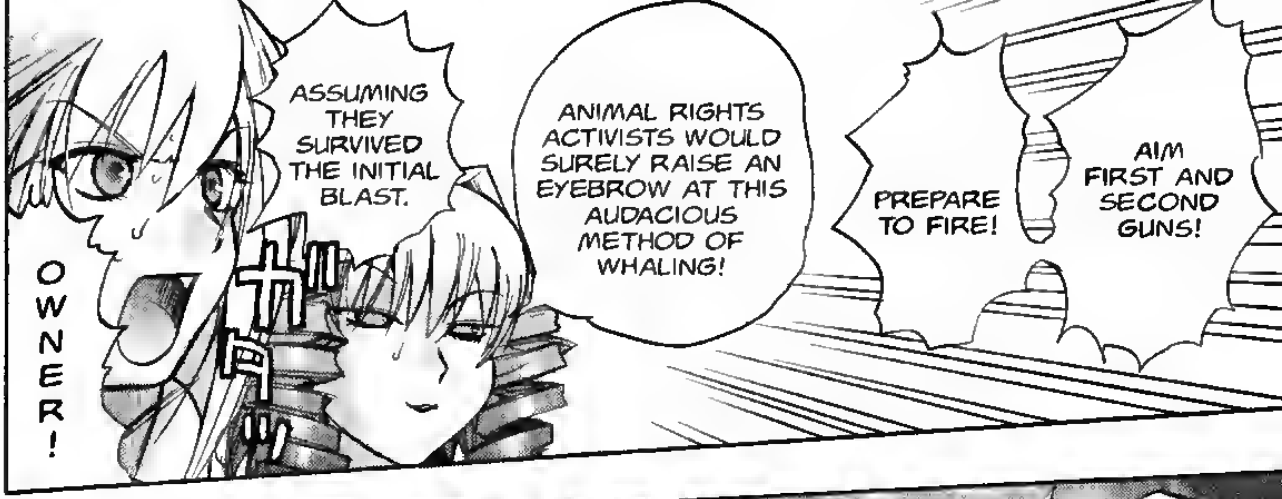

WELL, BEING INADVERTENT (AS WE WOULD WISH TO EMPHASIZE) PASSENGERS, WE'D FEEL BAD USING YOUR CREW QUARTERS.
HM? WHY DO YOU NOT JOIN US THEN?
YOU DON'T NEED TO LIVE ON DECK, GIRLS.
OH, MR. OWNER.
THEY ARE THE SELF-RELIANT ONES, ISN'T IT?
MIN-CHAN PREFERS BEING WITH THEM...
and yet, somehow I'm shocked
--COULDN'T, ELGALA, AS WE HAVE SO MANY THINGS LEFT TO DO ON DRY GROUND.
WELL, MAYBE WE--
YOU WILL HAVE MUCH KAMERADEN HERE!
I SEE...
..IT'S A SHAME.
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MR. OWNER?
I THINK... THERE'S SOMETHING BENEATH THE SHIP.
HUH?

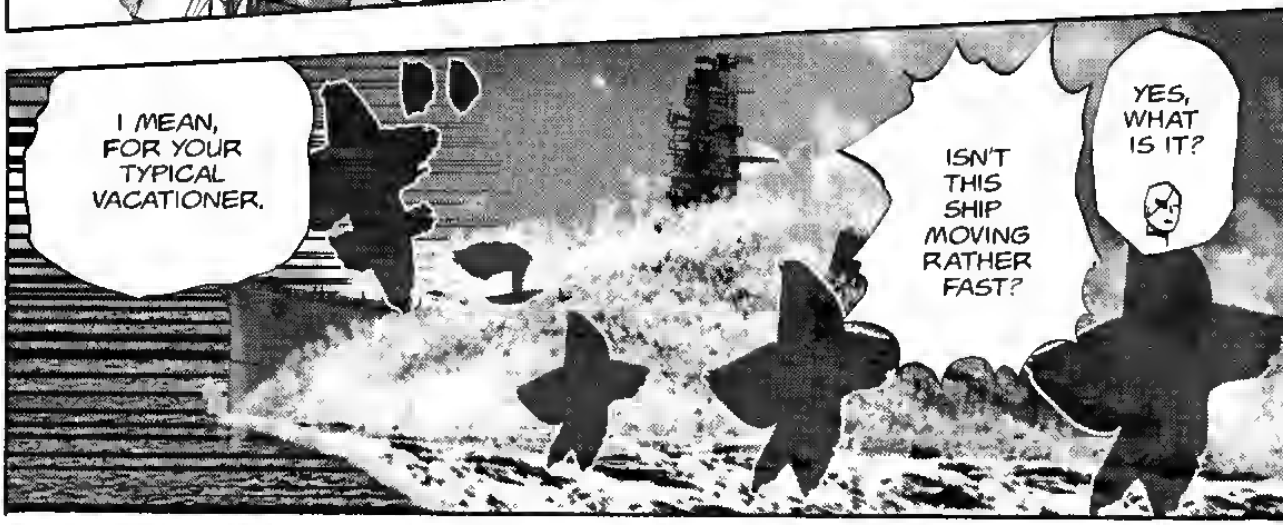

WHAT'S THAT !?
ゴオオ
CAPTAIN!
THE ENGINE REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE!
SOME-THING HUGE!
THERE'S SOMETHING MOVING UNDER THE WATER!
SIR, WILL YOU PLEASE LET US OFF AT THE NEAREST PORT? PLEASE? FOR GOD'S SAKE, SIR?
DO YOU LIKE WHALE BACON, GIRLS?
SIR, OUR LIKES OR DISLIKES IN THIS MATTER ARE IRRELEVANT WHEN WEIGHED AGAINST OUR BEGGING, SIR.
WE CAN STILL GET OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
DID YOU HEAR THAT, SENIOR?


ATTENTION, CREW!
SIR!
OUR TARGET IS THE UNDERWATER OBJECT!


START ENGINES!
STARTING ENGINES!
DAMAGE CONTROL, READY!
OIL PRESSURE, NORMAL! ALL SYSTEMS GREEN! ENGINE STARTUP COMPLETE!
AND THE UNDER-WATER OBJECT?
THE SONAR'S STILL OUT, SIR!
USE YOUR EYES, DAMN YOUR... UH, EYES!
AYE-AYE, SIR! CLIMBING TO LOOKOUT POST!
JEEZ-- ALL OF A SUDDEN, THEY'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MEN!
WH-WHERE ARE WE GOING, SIR?
ON A HUNT.
TARGET IS FLEEING AT TEN DEGREES PORT!


AYE-AYE, CAPTAIN!
HELM TO PORT 10 DEGREES! GIVE US MORE SPEED!
MORE SPEED!
CAPTAIN! WE'RE GOING TO BE VIOLENTLY ILL, CAPTAIN!
YOU KNOW, SENIOR, I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON ANYMORE.
AYE-AYE, CAP... I MEAN, OWNER!
HOW IS HE ABLE TO MAINTAIN HIS BALANCE...?
CALL ME... OWNER.


OWNER!
ASSUMING THEY SURVIVED THE INITIAL BLAST.
ANIMAL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS WOULD SURELY RAISE AN EYEBROW AT THIS AUDACIOUS METHOD OF WHALING!
PREPARE TO FIRE!
AIM FIRST AND SECOND GUNS!


I MEAN, FOR YOUR TYPICAL VACATIONER.
ISN'T THIS SHIP MOVING RATHER FAST?
YES, WHAT IS IT?


SIR! WHAT ABOUT WORKING ON THE ROOM SERVICE FIRST, SIR? PERHAPS INSTALL A GYM, OR A BUSINESS CENTER?
...I REPLACED IT WITH A GAS TURBINE. I THOUGHT I'D GOTTEN A BARGAIN, BUT SINCE THE BREAKDOWN I'VE BEGUN TO WONDER.


YES, WELL, AS I SAID, IT'S BEING REFURBISHED.
YOU SEE, IT HAD AN OLD-FASHIONED BOILER. THE SHIP BARELY CREPT ALONG.
ㅏㅏㅏㅏ


FIRE!
YAARG!
ゴオオオン
AIM NUMBER ONE STARBOARD GUN!
ROOM SERVICE, YES. WHY DON'T YOU WAIT HERE WHILE WE FIX YOU A FANTASTIC, FULL-COURSE, ALL-WHALE MEAL?
IN THE END, I BELIEVE IT IS THEIR VERY NAVAL EXPERTISE THAT WORKS AGAINST A DESIRE FOR HOSPITALITY.
PERHAPS HE FEELS THAT THIS IS ALL A PART OF THE LARGER WORLD OF GUEST SERVICE, SENIOR.
HMMM.
ELEVATE THE PORTSIDE GUN AND FIRE ON MY COUNT! TWO, ONE...
A TEST SHOT.
YOU MISSED.
ドドドド
オオオ


HM?
SIR! DEAD AHEAD! OBJECT IN THE WATER!
I SEE HE'S USING THE COLUMNS OF WATER CREATED BY THE EXPLODING SHELLS TO READJUST THE ANGLE OF THE GUN!
IT'S ALL SO POINT-LESS, AND YET I AM LEARNING SOMETHING HERE.
CHUCKLE NEXT SHOT FOR CERTAIN.
FIRE!
ENGINE AT FULL POWER!
RIGHT RUDDER!


EASE THE HELM!
EVASIVE ACTION! FULL SPEED!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S COMING TOWARD US?
IT'S A...
...TORPEDO.
A TORPEDO !?
BUT WHALES DON'T LAUNCH TORPEDOES...
I SEE... THEN THE OBJECT WAS NOT A WHALE, BUT A SUBMARINE...
MR. OWNER! HUH? HUH? HUH? HUH?
SENIOR EXCEL IS COMPLETELY OVERCOME!
I KNOW IT'S INAPPROPRIATE, BUT I AM SOMEWHAT AMUSED TO SEE THIS.

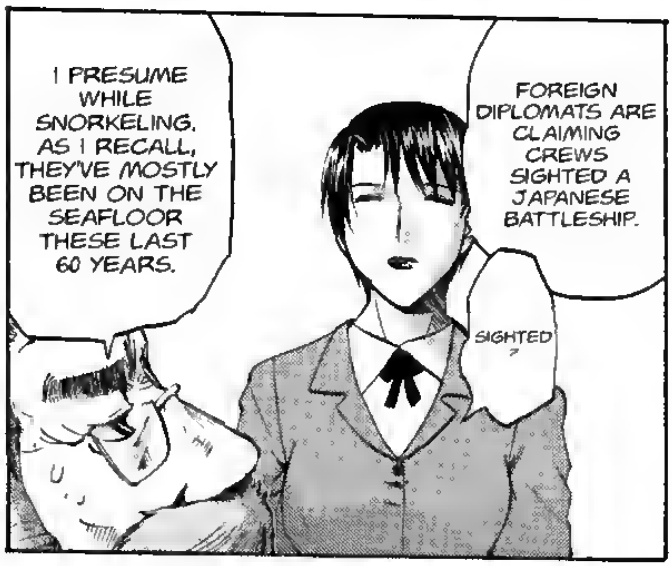

WE TOOK A DIRECT HIT! MIDSHIP ON THE STARBOARD SIDE!
WE CAN'T SLOW DOWN THE SHIP! WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL!
WHERE'S THE TARGET?
UM...
TO BE HIT ON THE STARBOARD SIDE...IT'S A CHINESE ROMANCE.
IT SEEMS WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
MULTIPLE DAMAGE REPORTS! WE'RE TAKING ON WATER!
SIR! IT'S NO USE!
I HAVE PUSHED THIS RESORT TO THE LIMITS OF MACHINE AND MAN.
JA, PERHAPS IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR A SHAKEDOWN CRUISE.
DAS BOOT IST KAPUT.

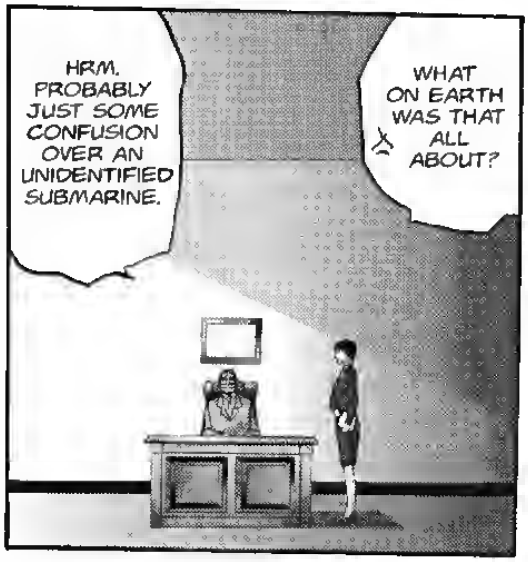

WE'RE STARTING TO SINK! THE HOTEL IS GOING DOWN!
EVERY-ONE... ABANDON HOTEL.
MR OWNER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? COME WITH US!
I'LL REMAIN ONBOARD.
WHAT!?
WHY?
THIS IS... EVERY-THING TO ME.
I DECIDED IT WILL BE MY FINAL RESTING PLACE.
I'LL GO DOWN WITH MY RESORT.
CAPTAIN IKAMI!
BUT...
YOU MUST ESCAPE WHILE YOU ARE ABLE.
SIR!
O CAPTAIN!
MY CAPTAIN!
I WISH TO REMAIN, CAPTAIN!
PLEASE TAKE ME DOWN WITH YOU, CAPTAIN!
CALL ME... OWNER.


THIS IS YOUR HOTEL OWNER'S ORDER...
SHUT OFF THE SPEAKING TUBES, JA?
SIR! YOU ONCE SAVED MY LIFE! NOW I'LL BE HAPPY TO SHARE YOUR FATE!
LIVE!
CAPTAAAAAAIN!
WOW YOU SUNK MY BATTLE-SHIP!
sob


HM?
ARE YOU...
NEIN! I DO NOT LET MY TEARS FALL!
FOR HE SHALL NOT DIE...









END MISSION-6





Excel Saga 14

ORIGINAL JAPANESE PRODUCTION STAFF

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(In Japanese alphabetical order. Honorary titles are omitted.)

Special Thanks to ETC.


——ありがとう
佐藤ショウジ…
愛の戦士
…Thank you, Shouji Sato…
…(Warrior of Love).

Guide to *Excel Saga* 14's Sound Effects!

5.1——FX zabaaa [splash]

7.3——FX goro goro goro [rolling]

8.3——FX buron [alarm/beep]

9.3——FX parii [in balloon, cracking]

9.1——FX sukku [getting up briskly]

9.2——FX puaaan [honking]

9.3——FX zoro zoro [trooping]

9.3——FX gasa [rustle]

9.3——FX mishi [squeak]

9.3——FX gasa [rustle]

9.3——FX mishi [squeak]

9.3——FX aa [walking cheerfully]

10.2——FX don [bumping]

10.3——FX chin! [clink]

10.3——FX jari [scrunch]

10.8——FX ja [scrunch]

11.1——FX topun [splash]

11.2——FX ha [huff]

11.2——FX zei zei [wheeze, wheeze]

11.4——FX gasa gasa [rustle, rustle]

11.5——FX dosa dosa [thud, thud]

12.1——FX kaa [fuming]

12.1——FX buru buru [shivering]

12.1——FX zabuaa [splash]

12.2——FX japu japu [splash splash]

12.6——FX za [scrunch]

13.1——FX bun [swinging]

13.1——FX dapaa [splash]

13.2——FX go go go [rumble, rumble]

13.2——FX zabaa [splash]

13.3——FX gyaa [screaming]

13.3——FX basha basha [splash, splash]

Most of Rikdo Koshi's original sound FX are left in their original Japanese in the VIZ edition of *Excel Saga*, exceptions being handwritten dialogue and "drawn" notes that have the character of captions. Although these sounds are all listed as "FX," they are of two types: onomatopoeia (in Japanese, *giseigo*) where the writing is used in an attempt to imitate the actual sound of something happening, and mimesis (in Japanese, *gitaigo*) where the writing is used to attempt to convey rhetorically a state, mood, or condition. Whereas the first type of FX will invariably be portrayed with kana, the second may use kana and/or kanji. One should note that there is often overlap between these two types. As always, the numbers are given in the original Japanese reading order right-to-left.

You are still allowed, however, to write your letters left-to-right to

Oubliette c/o Excel Saga

VIZ, LLC

P.O. Box 77064

San Francisco, CA 94107

19.3 FX gata [klonk]

19.3 FX u ["ugh"]

19.4 FX gaban [slamming]

20.1 FX koooo [howling]

20.1 FX fra [wobbling]

20.1 FX puu [puffing]

20.1 FX hiku hiku [convulsing]

20.2 FX shuu shuu [woosh, woosh]

20.2 FX biku [gasping]

20.3 FX oro oro [panicking]

20.3 FX shuu [woosh]

20.3 FX gata [klank]

20.4 FX gyu [squaazing tight]

21.1 FX fuu ["phew"]

21.2 FX shuu [woosh]

21.3 FX shuu [woosh]

21.4 FX ki [glaring]

21.5 FX oro oro [panicking]

22.1 FX gacha [click]

22.1 FX da [dashing out]

22.2 FX ban [slamming]

22.3 FX kyu [tightening hard]

23.1 FX ka [ka-]

23.2 FX boon [boom]

23.2 FX a– ["aaaah!"]

23.3 FX muwa [fuming]

23.3 FX muooo [fuming]

24.1 FX gyopii [zooming]

24.3 FX go [smacking]

24.4 FX da da da da [dashing]

25.1 FX zei zei [whaaze, whaaze]

25.1 FX haa haa haa [huff, huff, huff]

25.2 FX zei [whaaze]

25.2 FX ha haa ha [huff, huff, huff]

13.3 FX gyaa [screaming]

14.3 FX ufufufu [giggling]

14.3 FX yaaan ["oh, no!"]

15.1 FX gata [klank]

15.3 FX jabo jabo [splosh, splash]

15.3 FX boto boto [dripping]

15.3 FX boto boto [dripping]

15.3 FX gashi [grabbing]

15.3 FX gu [clenching]

15.3 FX japu japu [splash, splash]

15.4 FX fun fun [nodding]

16.2 FX suta suta [walking briskly]

16.2 FX poto poto poto [dripping]

18.3 FX u ["ugh..."]

18.4 FX poto [dripping]

16.5 FX chi chi chi chi [click, click]

17.1 FX gacha [click]

17.2 FX nyoki [poking out the head]

17.4 FX paton [shutting the door]

17.6 FX guu [forcing]

17.6 FX puru puru [shaking from overstraining]

17.7 FX kachiri [click]

18.1 FX godon [bang]

18.1 FX gusha [smashing]

18.2 FX zuryu [slurping]

18.2 FX bishan [splash]

19.3 FX boto [dripping]

18.3 FX bocho [splash]

18.4 FX gata [klank]

18.4 FX furu furu [shaking]

19.1 FX jopaa [flooding]

19.2 FX kyaaa [screeching]

19.3 FX mishi [creaking]

18.3 FX gii [squeaking]

35.4 — FX ta [trotting]

36.1 — FX doon ["ta-daa!"]

37.1 — FX paku [click]

37.2 — FX cha cha cha [moving briskly]

37.3 — FX po [tossing]

37.4 — FX za [rustle]

37.4 — FX suru [srrrr, clothes slipping off]

37.4 — FX paan [slamming]

37.4 — FX tao [trotting]

38.1 — FX garu [rattle]

38.1-2 — FX kapoon [klank]

40.1 — FX zapuun [splash]

40.2 — FX chapu chapu [splash]

40.2 — FX puaaaaa [letting out braath]

41.3 — FX gara [rattle]

41.4 — FX botan [slamming]

41.4 — FX goun goun [whirr, whirr]

41.5 — FX charaan [ta-da]

41.5 — FX gatcho gatcha [clink-clonk]

41.6 — FX tsuru [slipping]

41.6 — FX gacha gachan [klink-klank]

42.2 — FX buun buun [buzz, buzz]

42.2 — FX gata [klank]

42.2 — FX ka [clop]

43.2 — FX pi [peep]

43.6 — FX wiin [whirr]

43.8 — FX wiin [whirr]

43.6 — FX wiin [whirr]

44.2 — FX kapoon [klank]

44.4 — FX zuka [striding]

44.4 — FX zuka zuka [striding]

44.5 — FX garu gara [rattle]

44.5 — FX ba [flap]

45.2 — FX gata [rattle]

26.1 — FX za [scrunch]

26.1 — FX za za [scrunch, scrunch]

26.3 — FX japaaa [splash]

26.3 — FX buu [booing]

26.3 — FX kyuki [squeak]

26.4 — FX goshi goshi [scrub, scrub]

26.4 — FX jobu [splash]

26.5 — FX goshi goshi gashi goshi [scrub, scrub]

27.2 — FX japu [splash]

27.3 — FX japa japa [splash, splash]

27.4 — FX een eeen [crying]

28.1 — FX tekko tekko [trotting]

28.1 — FX piku [twitching]

28.2 — FX gyaa gyaa [screaming]

28.2 — FX nyoki [poking out]

28.4 — FX ueeee [crying]

29.1 — FX eeeen eeeen [crying]

29.2 — FX wara [huddling]

29.2 — FX wara [huddling]

30.1 — FX eeeen eeeen [crying]

31.1 — FX wara wara [huddling]

31.1 — FX shi shi [shooing]

31.3 — FX te te te [trotting]

31.4 — FX hiso hiso hiso [whispering]

31.5 — FX wara wara wara wara [huddling]

32.1 — FX kin [metallic clank]

32.1 — FX kin [metallic clank]

32.2 — FX kin [metallic clank]

32.3 — FX kin [metallic clank]

33.2 — FX bikuu [gasping]

33.2 — FX gooo [rumble]

34.1 — FX piku [twitching]

34.4 — FX za za [scrunch, scrunch]

34.5 — FX pi pi [peep, peep]

52.4——FX gabo [bang]

52.4——FX gararara [crumbling]

53.1——FX gon [smack]

53.1——FX doga [whack]

53.1——FX bari bari [ripping]

53.1——FX zuzun [rumble]

53.2——FX kiraan [glaring]

53.4——FX gyuun [swinging an arm]

53.6——FX jari [cling]

54.1——FX dogoo [bang]

54.2——FX gata [klank]

54.2——FX paka [clicking open]

54.3——FX ga [grabbing]

54.4——FX gyaa [screaming]

54.5——FX gui [grabbing]

55.1——FX daa [dashing]

55.1——FX gara [rattle]

55.2——FX hira hira hira [flap, flap]

55.4——FX kun [grabbing]

55.5——FX ta [dashing]

55.5——FX dote dote [fump, fump]

56.1——FX hyuu [howling]

56.2——FX kara kara [rattle]

56.3——FX kasha kasha [scrunch, scrunch]

56.4——FX gata [klank]

56.4——FX piku [flinching]

56.5——FX gara [crumbling]

56.5——FX gasha [klank]

56.6——FX sha [scrunch]

56.6——FX jiri jiri [backing off slowly]

56.6——FX gara [crumbling]

57.1——FX ha [gasp]

57.1——FX za [electronic noise]

57.1——FX za za [electronic noise]

45.2——FX ba [wham]

45.3——FX zapu [splash]

45.3——FX bata bata bata [flop flop; running noisily]

48.1——FX gara [rattle]

48.1——FX gasu [kicking]

46.2——FX gon [plonk]

46.2——FX bashaan [splash]

48.3——FX bugo bugo [bubble-bubble]

48.4——FX za [rustle]

47.2——FX fuooo [whirr]

47.3——FX gara [rattle]

47.4——FX gatan [klank]

47.5——FX un un [nodding]

47.6——FX zawa [murmur]

48.1——FX zawa [buzz]

48.3——FX garara [rattle]

46.3——FX zoro zoro zoro [trooping out]

48.4——FX doka [kicking]

48.4——FX bochan [splash]

48.6——FX zazaan [splash]

49.2——FX kata [klank]

50.3——FX zui [zooming]

50.3——FX ga [grabbing]

50.4——FX zoro zoro zoro zoro [trooping out]

50.3——FX gara [rattle]

50.5——FX aromaaa [literally the word "aroma"]

51.1——FX gao [roaring]

52.1——FX gobaan [bang]

52.1——FX doshaaan [smashing]

52.2——FX mishi mishi [squeak, squeak]

52.2——FX mbishi [posing]

52.2——FX gooo [rumble]

52.3——FX niyari [smirking]

52.4——FX meri [np, nip]

70.1 — FX puaaan [honking]

70.3 — FX mogu mogu [munch, munch]

70.4 — FX miroon [smirking]

70.4 — FX paku [knap]

71.1 — FX doga [smack]

71.1 — FX meri [creak]

71.2 — FX ki [glaring]

71.4 — FX pira [flap]

71.4 — FX pira [flap]

71.1 — FX sawa sawa [rustle, rustle]

71.2 — FX pira [flap]

71.3 — FX bafu [muffling]

71.5 — FX u--ya--ta-- ["ugh...not fair..."]

71.5 — FX ga ga ga ga ga [smacking]

71.5 — FX hoi hoi [moving with no difficulty]

73.2 — FX kotsu [klak]

73.2 — FX gataa [klank]

73.3 — FX suta [striding]

73.5 — FX batan [slamming]

74.1 — FX zusa [rustle]

74.1 — FX gosu [whack]

74.2 — FX gata [klank]

74.3 — FX kaku kaku [chatter, chatter]

74.3 — FX su [whip]

75.1 — FX fuwa [fluff]

75.2 — FX kaa [blushing]

75.2 — FX piku [flinching]

75.3 — FX pata pata pata [pitter-patter]

75.3 — FX go go go [whack, whack]

76.1 — FX kacha [klink]

76.2 — FX kaa [blushing]

76.3 — FX wata wata [panicking]

76.5 — FX pori pori [scratching]

77.1 — FX hira hira [flip-flap]

57.4 — FX biku [gasp]

56.2 — FX zubo [chonk]

56.3 — FX basa [rustle]

56.3 — FX goo [rumble]

56.4 — FX bori bori bori [crunch, crunch]

56.4 — FX ...oo [rumble]

56.5 — FX zee zee [wheeze, wheeze]

56.5 — FX zei zei zei [wheeze, wheeze]

56.6 — FX zee zee [wheeze, wheeze]

61.3 — FX go [thud]

62.1 — FX ooooo [whirr]

62.2 — FX zaku [scruach]

62.3 — FX za [scrunch]

62.3 — FX shuuu [whoosh]

62.4 — FX zuza [scrunch]

62.5 — FX shuu shuu [whoosh, whoosh]

63.1 — FX ba [wham]

63.1 — FX shubo [snap]

63.2 — FX zupooo [exploding]

64.1 — FX chun [chirping]

64.1 — FX chi chi chi chi [chirping]

65.3 — FX gara [rattle]

65.5 — FX koto koto koto koto [rattle, rattle]

65.6 — FX koton [klank]

66.2 — FX niko [smiling]

66.3 — FX ki [clenching]

66.4 — FX gata [klank]

68.1 — FX karan [empty]

66.2 — FX sui [getting up briskly]

66.3 — FX fu [light touch]

66.4 — FX ha [gasping]

66.3 — FX ha [gasping]

66.6 — FX boa [bursting into laughter]

66.6 — FX gaba [grabbing]

87.4 FX dokan dokan dokan [throb, throb]

98.1 FX ha [gasping]

98.2 FX booo [feeling dizzy]

98.3 FX ha [gasping]

96.4 FX ta [dashing]

99.2 FX buoooo [vroom]

99.3 FX burororo [vroom]

99.4 FX ka [klak]

99.5 FX gacha [click]

100.1 FX buo [wham]

100.2 FX gagogoon [bang]

100.3 FX meri [cracking]

100.3 FX boro [crumbling]

100.3 FX gaki [cracking]

100.4 FX para para [crumble, crumble]

100.5 FX za [scrunch]

100.6 FX gapo [smacking]

100.8 FX doga [bang]

101.2 FX don [bang]

101.2 FX gogon [whack]

101.2 FX gon [bang]

101.2 FX dogan [thud]

101.3 FX go [whack]

101.3 FX do [bang]

101.3 FX ga [whack]

102.1 FX gabo [boom]

102.1 FX goon [whack]

102.2 FX gan [whack]

102.2 FX don [bang]

102.3 FX gakiiin [klank]

102.3 FX da da da da [dashing]

103.1 FX goo [rumbling]

103.1 FX do do do [dashing]

103.2 FX basa basa basa [rustle, rustle]

77.2 FX paaa [blushing]

80.1 FX batan [slam]

80.4 FX gashi [grabbing]

80.5 FX ga [tripping]

80.6 FX dosa [thud]

81.1 FX gaba [pushing up fast]

81.1 FX za [rustle]

81.2 FX ha [gasping]

81.4 FX sa [whip]

82.2 FX gaba [sitting up fast]

82.3 FX da [dashing]

83.1 FX da da da da da da [dashing]

83.4 FX paa [ta-da]

83.5 FX seil ["yeah!"]

83.5 FX bikan [beaming]

83.8 FX papaa [honking]

83.6 FX buoooo [vroom]

86.2 FX gishi [squeak]

87.3 FX goban [bang]

88.1 FX baan [slammmng]

89.1 FX gata [klank]

89.4 FX bibi [snapping]

90.1 FX batama [slamming]

90.1 FX kotsu kotsu kotsu [clop, clop]

90.1 FX shiba [snapping]

90.2 FX chin [click]

90.4 FX pachi pachi [cracking of fira]

91.1 FX buu [boo]

91.1 FX uki uki [being excited]

94.2 FX gacha [click]

95.1 FX gika [gasping]

96.2 FX baaan [ta-da]

97.1 FX gyun gyun gyun gyun [whirr, whirr]

97.2 FX bokyaruru [squeezing out]

110.1 — FX zee zee [wheaze, wheeze]

110.1 — FX pui [turning away]

110.2 — FX hira hira [flip-flop]

110.3 — FX beri [ripping]

110.3 — FX buki buki [snapping off]

110.3 — FX guru guru [wrapping]

111.1 — FX do do do [fump, fump]

111.2 — FX za [rustle]

111.2 — FX buki buki [snapping off]

111.3 — FX baa [zam]

111.4 — FX da da do do [dashing]

112.1 — FX pyuu [zip]

112.2 — FX do do do [fump, fump]

112.3 — FX ga [grabbing]

112.4 — FX bun [swinging]

112.4 — FX dohyul [whoosh]

113.1 — FX dogaan [exploding]

113.2 — FX go go go go [rumble]

113.4 — FX goron [plonk]

114.1 — FX do do do [fump, fump]

114.2 — FX da da da da [dashing]

114.3 — FX zakushi [posing]

114.3 — FX yura [wobble]

114.4 — FX buraan [hanging]

114.5 — FX buaaaa [flinging]

115.2 — FX gun [pulling]

115.2 — FX gashin [grabbing]

115.2 — FX buraan [hanging]

115.2 — FX iyaaa ["Oh, nooo!"]

115.2 — FX de da do [deshing]

115.3 — FX giran [glaring]

115.3 — FX da da da [dashing]

116.1 — FX haa haa [huff, huff]

116.2 — FX doon [ka-boom]

104.2 — FX bakin [smashing]

104.2 — FX begoon [bang]

104.2 — FX bin [throwing]

105.1 — FX bare bare [crumble crumble]

105.1 — FX bore [crumble]

105.2 — FX chara [clink]

105.3 — FX ha [gasping]

105.3 — FX sukaa [empty or scarce presence]

105.4 — FX zee [wheeze]

105.4 — FX dosu [wump]

105.4 — FX zee [wheeze]

105.4 — FX de de [deshing]

105.4 — FX zea [wheaze]

106.1 — FX zee zee [wheeze, wheeze]

106.1 — FX zei zei [wheeze, wheeze]

106.1 — FX bi [pointing firmly]

106.4 — FX ban [wham]

106.4 — FX biku [gasping]

106.5 — FX ga [smacking]

107.3 — FX zee [wheeze]

107.3 — FX haa [huff]

107.3 — FX zee [wheeze]

107.3 — FX haa [huff]

107.4 — FX zee zee [wheeze, wheeze]

107.5 — FX zea [wheeze]

107.5 — FX haa [huff]

107.5 — FX haa [huff]

109.2 — FX da [dashing]

109.3 — FX furu furu [shaking]

109.4 — FX gaba [grabbing]

109.5 — FX za [scrunch]

109.5 — FX gu gu gu [tugging]

109.5 — FX gui [grabbing]

109.5 — FX giri giri [grabbing hard]

121.1 — FX hyan [yelp]

121.2 — FX hyan [yelp]

121.2 — FX hyan [yelp]

121.3 — FX hya? [yelp]

121.4 — FX ki [glaring]

121.5 — FX ta [dashing]

121.5 — FX gobaaaa [exploding]

121.6 — FX oooo [rumble]

122.2 — FX boon [bang]

122.2 — FX aaaaa ["aaaaah!"]

123.2 — FX goki [crack]

125.1 — FX zaaa [splash]

125.2 — FX zapuun [splash]

125.2 — FX zazaa [splash]

125.2 — FX zaboon [splash]

125.3 — FX kapoon [washbowl hitting a floor or something at a spa]

128.1 — FX zapuun [splash]

128.1 — FX guba guba goba guba guba guba [boiling]

128.2 — FX haffu maffu [huff, huff]

128.2 — FX haku zuhi mofu [munching]

128.2 — FX umofu hafu kafu [huff, huff]

128.3 — FX puu [farting]

128.3 — FX kui [gulp]

128.3 — FX gupa guba gupa gupa [boiling]

128.3 — FX purururu [prrrr]

128.4 — FX pi [peep]

129.2 — FX gishi gishi [squeaking]

129.3 — FX gatan [klank]

129.4 — FX gefuu [burping]

129.4 — FX hararin [opening up the front of yukata]

129.5 — FX gara [rattle]

130.1 — FX zapu [splash]

130.1 — FX babaan [wham]

130.1 — FX doon [wham]

118.2 — FX dokaan [ka-boom]

118.2 — FX gogoon [rumble]

118.4 — FX pi [peep]

118.7 — FX haa [sigh]

118.7 — FX zea zea zea [wheeze, wheeze]

117.1 — FX kyoro [looking around]

117.1 — FX zea zea [wheeze, wheeze]

117.1 — FX haa haa [huff, huff]

117.1 — FX zea [wheeze]

117.2 — FX gyun gyun [turning head around]

117.2 — FX zei zei [wheeze, wheeze]

117.3 — FX ba [zam]

117.3 — FX dararaa [ta-da]

117.3 — FX zei [wheeze]

117.4 — FX kunka kun [sniffing]

118.1 — FX shuta [saluting firmly]

118.4 — FX kan kan [krak krak]

118.4 — FX meri meri [creak creak]

118.4 — FX boriki [breaking]

118.5 — FX gagin [klank]

119.1 — FX gashan [clang]

119.2 — FX gasha gasha [clang clang]

119.3 — FX go go go go go go [rumble]

119.4 — FX biri biri [vibrating]

119.4-6 — FX go go go go go go go] rumble]

119.5 — FX puaaan [honking]

120.1 — FX puaaa [honking]

120.1 — FX hun! ["hmph!"]

120.2 — FX bari buri [crashing]

120.2 — FX dokon [rumble]

120.2 — FX gogogo [rumble]

120.3 — FX gooo [rumble]

120.4 — FX zei zei [wheeze, wheeze]

120.4 — FX ze ze [wheeze, wheeze]

OUBLIETTE

Your *Excel Saga* bonus section!

141.1 — FX go go go go [rumble]

142.1 — FX gako [klank]

142.1 — FX zari zari [scrunch, scrunch]

142.3 — FX jaan [ta-da]

143.2 — FX zazaan [splash]

143.3 — FX hun! ["humph!"]

143.3 — FX hun! ["humph!"]

143.4 — FX kansaan [deadly quiet]

143.5 — FX dopuun [splash]

143.5 — FX zazaa [splash]

144.1 — FX pata pata [flapping]

144.2 — FX da [dashing]

145.1 — FX na [grabbing]

145.2 — FX zazaan [splash]

147.1 — FX zazaa [splash]

147.5 — FX moku moku [munching]

147.5 — FX bari bari [crunching]

147.6 — FX zazaan [splash]

147.6 — FX da [zam]

148.1 — FX kyaaaaa [screaching]

148.2 — FX kapoon [washbowl or something hitting a floor or something at a spa]

148.4 — FX toiya! ["yaah!"]

150.1 — FX gu ["ugh"]

150.1 — Kusagaa FX fu [giggle]

150.2 — FX bata bata [stomping]

150.4 — FX bishii [posing firmly]

151.1 — FX zawa [murmur]

151.3 — FX chi [clicking a tongue]

153.1 — FX zazaan [splash]

153.1 — FX myaa myaa myaa [meowing of seagulls]

154.2 — FX zapuun [splash]

154.3 — FX dopun [splash]

154.3 — FX biku [gasping]

155.1 — FX burun burun [swinging]

131.2 — FX kapoon [washbowl or something hitting a floor or something at a spa]

131.3 — FX gata gata [klank, klank]

131.4 — FX petta petta petta petta [pitter-patter]

132.1 — FX gara [rattle]

132.2 — FX dohyaan [panic attack]

132.3 — FX go go go go go go [rumble]

133.3 — FX basa basa [thud, thud-throwing stuff in his bag]

133.4 — FX dosu dosu dosu dosu [stomping]

134.1 — FX dosu [thud]

134.2 — FX ban [bang]

134.2 — FX fura [wobbling]

134.3 — FX goto [clank]

134.4 — FX kyaaa [screaming]

135.1 — FX bori bori [scratching]

135.3 — FX hun ["harrumph"]

135.4 — FX ga [grabbing]

135.4 — FX pui [brushing away]

136.4 — FX go go go go [rumble]

137.1 — FX gashonn [click]

137.2 — FX kuwa [glaru]

137.3 — FX za za [scrunch, scrunch]

137.3 — FX faooo [siren]

137.3 — FX baten [slamming]

137.3 — FX za [scrunch]

137.3 — FX zawa zawa [murmur, murmur]

137.4 — FX niyari [smirking]

138.1 — FX buboaa [puffing]

138.2 — FX posu [tapping]

139.1 — FX kiki [squeak]

139.2 — FX baten [slamming]

139.3 — FX kaa [fuming]

139.5 — FX buu [puffing]

139.8 — FX zawa zawa zawa [murmur, murmur]

163.1 — FX don [pushing sway]

163.1 — FX da [dashing]

163.2 — FX ooooo [rumble]

163.3 — FX ooooo [rumble]

163.4 — FX bishi [saluting firmly]

163.5 — FX fu [sigh]

163.5 — FX suta suta [walking briskly]

164.1 — FX doooo [whom]

164.1 — FX zabu zabu zobu zabu [splash, splosh]

164.2 — FX basha [splash]

164.2 — FX basha [splash]

164.3 — FX zee zee zee [wheeze, wheeze]

164.4 — FX zee zee zee zai [wheeze, wheeze]

164.4 — FX burururu [shaking]

165.1 — FX gigii [squeak]

165.1 — FX gishi [squeak]

165.1 — FX gyuu [squeezing]

165.1 — FX jabo jabo [dripping]

165.2 — FX giggii [squeak]

165.2 — FX zazaon [splash]

165.4 — FX goton [klank]

165.4 — FX bikun [gasping]

166.1 — FX kata kata [chattering]

166.1 — FX gaku gata [shivering]

166.2 — FX boou... [dim light appearing]

166.3 — FX su [moving swiftly]

166.3 — FX chira [flickering]

166.3 — FX hiku [flinching]

166.4 — FX doki [throb]

166.5 — FX piku [flinching]

166.6 — FX ta [dashing]

167.4 — FX furu furu [shaking]

167.5 — FX suta suta [walking briskly]

166.1 — FX gako [klank]

155 4 — FX zoon [splash]

156 2 — FX zabu [splash]

156 3 — FX bassha bassha bassha [splash, splash]

156 4 — FX zapu [splash]

156 5 — FX basho [splash]

157 2 — FX gaba [grabbing]

157.3 — FX suri uri [rubbing]

157.3 — FX buru buru [shaking]

157.4 — FX bishi [crocking]

158 1 — FX basha [splash]

156 2 — FX zazaan [splash]

158.3 — FX zapu [splash]

158.5 — FX poi [discarding]

159.1 — FX gopo gopo gopo gopo gapo gopo [hubble-bubble]

159 3 — FX dobaba [gushing]

156 3 — FX gopo gopo [hubble-bubble]

159 4 — FX basha bassha [splash, splash]

159.4 — FX gopo gopo [hubble-bubble]

159.5 — FX basha [splash]

156 5 — FX gobobobo [hubble-bubble]

160 1 — FX iyaa ["oh, no!"]

160.1 — FX gobo gobo [hubble-bubble]

160.1 — FX dopu [splash]

160.2 — FX hiiii ["eeeee!"]

160 3 — FX zapu [splash]

160 5 — FX ha [gasping]

160 6 — FX kira [twinkle]

161.1 — FX basha [splosh]

161 2 — FX zazaan [splash]

161.3 — FX dopun [splash]

161.3 — FX zabu [splash]

162.2 — FX za [rustle]

162 3 — FX za [rustle]

162 4 — FX saa [rustle]

OUBLIETTE

Your *Excel Saga* bonus section!

179.3 — FX oooo [rumbla]

179.4 — FX gogon [rumbla]

179.4 — FX han [bang]

178 4 — FX da [dashing]

179.5 — FX kan kan kan kan [clonk, clonk]

179.8 — FX ba [wham]

180.1 — FX dodoon [ka-boom]

181.1 — FX bu [blowing]

181.2 — FX dodon [ka-boom]

182.1 — FX bam [slamming]

182.1 — FX gan [bang]

182.1 — FX gon [bang]

182.1 — FX puchi [smashing]

182.2 — FX ban [slamming]

182.3 — FX piku biku [twitching]

182.4 — FX ba ba [dashing]

182.5 — FX goooo [rumbla]

183.3 — FX gogogooo [rumble]

183.4 — FX gishii [squeaking]

183 4 — FX goo [rumbla]

183.5 — FX gigii [squaaking]

183.7 — FX paka [click]

184.1 — FX goon [ka-boom]

184.2 — FX ngoaaa [wham]

184.3 — FX biri biri biri [vibrating]

184.4 — FX dodoooo [exptoding]

185.2 — FX kapa [click]

185.3 — FX gogoon [rumbla]

185.3 — FX gishi [squeaking]

185.4 — FX gan gon [clonk, clonk]

185.4 — FX dota dota dota dota [stomping]

185.5 — FX ban [bang]

188.2 — FX gon gon ga [clonk, clonk]

188.5 — FX Go [kicking]

189.1 — FX fu [light going off]

169.2 — FX do do do [rumble]

188.3 — FX hoooo [flickering]

189 4 — FX go go go go [rumble]

189 5 — FX da [dashing]

189.5 — FX gakuri [fainting]

170.1 — FX baan [ta-da]

170.1 — FX haku haku haku [munching]

171.1 — FX ha ha ha ha [laughter]

171.5 — FX go goon [rumble]

171.5 — FX gin [klank]

172.3 — FX fuu [puffing]

172 4 — FX Pooo [puffing]

172.4 — FX ha ha ha [laughter]

172.4 — FX kokuri [nodding]

173.1 — FX zazaan [splash]

173.2 — FX puaaan [honking]

173.3 — FX bokeee [being spaced out]

174.4 — FX guttari [being exhausted]

177.1 — FX zazaa [splash]

177.3 — FX gogooo [rumble]

177.3 — FX suu suu [zzz zzz]

177.3 — FX gigii [squaak]

178.1 — FX doon [wham]

178.1 — FX gosu [smashing]

178.2 — FX zubaa [wham]

178.1 — FX gogogoon [rumbla]

179.2 — FX gongogogoo [rumble]

179.2 — FX gaba [getting up abruptly]

179.2 — FX bi [getting up abruptly]

179.3 — FX doon [wham]

179 3 — FX gogogogo [rumble]

192.3 FX pyuuu [whistle]

193.1 FX kan kan [clop, clop]

193.3 FX go [whacking]

193.5 FX zasaa [splash]

193.6 FX zuka zuka [striding]

194.1 FX ga [krak]

194.2 FX hyooo [whirr]

194.4 FX da [dashing]

195.1 FX doon doon doon [thud, thud, thud]

195.2 FX kawa [glaring]

195.2 FX don [Thud]

195.3 FX ba [wham]

195.3 FX bishi [saluting firmly]

195 3 FX za [stepping back]

195.3 FX zawa [rustle]

195.4 FX oooo [roar]

196.1 FX kan [clop]

196 1 FX kan [clop]

199.1 FX dohyuu [firing a shell]

196.2 FX kiii [squeak]

196.3 FX don [bang]

196.3 FX kan kan kan [clop, clop]

199.4 FX kii [squeak]

196.4 FX go go go go [rumble]

199.9 FX gon gon gon go [rumble]

197.2 FX dokyu [ka-boom]

197 3 FX gakun [jerking]

197.3 FX katen [klank]

197.3-4 FX kiiiii [squeak]

197.3 FX gata [krak]

197 4 FX gobae [surging]

197.5 FX dogo [wham]

197.5 FX gogo [wham]

186 2 FX ki [glaring]

186.2 FX gogoon [rumble]

186 2 FX ha ha ha [laughing]

188.2 FX ha [gasping]

186 3 FX zapuun [splash]

186.3 FX gakon [firing]

186 3 FX gon [firing]

107.1 FX go go go go go [rumble]

197 2 FX don [thud]

167.3 FX itaaa ["ouch"]

197.4 FX dopaan [splash]

188.1 FX pukaa [floating]

188 3 FX shun ["sound" of falling into a sad mood]

188 3 FX uuuu ["hmmm"]

188.5 FX go go go go go [rumbling]

199.1 FX zazaa [splash]

189 1 FX zapun [splash]

189 2 FX dopun [splash]

189 2 FX zapun [splash]

189 4 FX zaboa [splash]

189 5 FX zazan [splash]

190 1 FX kanpai! ["Cheers!"]

190.1 FX waaa [roar]

190.2 FX wa ha ha [laughing]

190.3 FX toruru [phone ringing]

190.3 FX pi [piip]

191.1 FX furaa [wobbling]

191.1 FX gasshi [grabbing]

191 2 FX tosu [slumping]

191.2 FX fuu [sigh]

191.4 FX butsu [click]

192.1 FX kaan kaan [klank, klank]

192 2 FX keen keen [klap, klap]

OUBLIETTE
Your *Excel Saga* bonus section!

202.5——FX mishi [squeeking]

203.1——FX ba [whem]

203.3——FX gooo [rumble]

203.3——FX zawa [murmur]

203.4——FX gogokoo [rumble]

203.5——FX go go go [rumble]

203.6——FX do do do [rumble]

203.7——FX zugogo [rumble]

204.1——FX goooo [rumble]

204.2——FX don [bang]

204.3——FX dodoon [ka-boom]

204.4——FX gobnoo [ka-boom]

204.5——FX dogoooo [rumble]

204.5——FX do do do [ka-boom]

205.1——FX su [tears running]

205.6——FX koooo [whirr]

206.4——FX geku geku geku [shaking]

206.4——FX ban! [bang]

Notes by Carl Gustav Horn and Yuko Sawada

First thing, while you're waiting for *Excel Saga* Vol. 15, everybody go to www.excelsagaforum.com, the largest English-language fan forum online for both the *Excel Saga* anime and manga. In fact the forum's administrator is in the United Kingdom, as are many of the members, reflecting the fact that the series has a not inconsiderable following there (see also Amir G's letter below), as well as in Canada, Italy, France, Finland, Ukraine, and Dublin, CA.

Here you can hang out and mutter darkly about the state plot delaying the release of the next volume. As you know, the VIZ edition of *Excel Saga*, originally a bimonthly (actually, Vols. 01 and 02 came out in successive months, a production schedule that was funny, but not "ha-ha" funny), has now caught up with the original Japanese edition, which runs one chapter a month in Shonen Gahosha's magazine *Young King Ours*.

While VIZ started with a "backlog" of unreleased Japanese volumes of *Excel Saga* to translate (when we started, Japan was up to Vol. 09), in the two years and eight months since, the bimonthly release schedule has not only taken care of

198.1——FX gate [klank]

198.2——FX gyuooo [whirr]

198.3——FX kiii [squeak]

199.1——FX gooon [rumble]

199.2——FX don [bang]

199.3——FX iiii [whirr]

199 3——FX dogon [ka-boom]

199 4——FX do do do [bang, bang]

199.5——FX do do doo [rumble]

200.1——FX dodoo [rumble]

200.1——FX zudo [firing]

200.2——FX goo [rumble]

200.2——FX iki iki [being excited]

200.4——FX do do do do [rumble]

200.4——FX shuuu [whoosh]

200.6——FX gatan [klank]

200.6——FX zugoeae [whem]

200.6——FX goro [rolling]

201.1——FX zoshaaa [whoosh]

201.1——FX jubea [whoosh]

201.2——FX mishi mishi mishi [squeeking]

201.2——FX oooo [rumble]

201.3——FX ban ban [bang, bang]

201.4——FX goon [rumble]

202.1——FX dobae [ka-boom]

202.2——FX gogon [wham]

202 2——FX wae [screaming]

202.3——FX biri biri[vibrating]

202.3——FX do do do [rumble]

202.4——FX mishi mishi [squeaking]

202.4——FX baki baki [snapping]

202.4——FX bari [ripping]

202.5——FX baki baki [snapping]

include *Manga Vizion*, *Animerica Extra*, and *PULP*. The most progressive element of *Shonen Jump* and *Shojo Beat*, however, is that they move closer to the Japanese model of "more pages for less money" that built the industry in Japan. When you support these magazines, you're backing more than just their individual stories, but a larger vision for manga in America. And a day when you can get everything monthly again—why, maybe even *Excel Saga*.

Right. Through the same combination of terror and shame that motivates the girls of ACROSS, we managed to get some more people to write in. First of all, a note from abroad (although I guess we're all gaijin around here):

To Rikdo Koshi,

Sir, please know that you have British *Excel Saga* fans that are very enthusiastic about your work. I, being one of them, would like to let you know you are doing an excellent job and wa British fans will continue to support you.

Sincerely
Amir G
United Kingdom

Since most Americans know the U.K. only through *Da Ali G Show* (it's interesting that he lives in Staines on a street called Cherry Blossom—"Is it because I is otaku?"), I will refrain from making any obvious remarks. I have it easy myself, as it is utterly impossible to make fun of the name "Hom"—try as you might, there is no humor potential there.

I think it's wonderful, however, that *Excel Saga* has gained so many readers in the United Kingdom and Ireland, especially considering the profound artistic debt the aptly-named English version of Sumiyoshi owes the city of Newcastle-on-Tyne and its own highly successful comics magazine, *Viz*—which at its height sold over a million copies a month, numbers any Japanese manga magazine would be proud to have. Although it is no more than coincidence that VIZ Media shares the name, its features such as "Dr. Poo" and "Nobby's Piles" make it a brother in spirit to manga, as the British and the Japanese are the world's leading exponents of scatological humor.

Just some more remarks before we get into the notes for Vol. 14: Studio Gainax (www.gainax.co.jp) for some years has featured a different pinco of fan art every week on their front page, except their fan artists tend to be professionals, drawing their favorite Gainax characters. Kohta Hirano, whose fantastic *Hellsing* is *Excel Saga*'s neighbor in *Young King Ours* magazine, has done several in the past. But last fall Rikdo Koshi made his debut on Gainax's front page, and not just at any time—he was given the honor of the piece to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Neon Genesis *Evangelion*'s

those first nine, but, as you can see here with Vol. 14, the-five Rikdo Koshi has completed since then. Now we're at the part where, of course, we must wait on new volumes to come out in Japan.

Vol. 15, by the way, is tentatively scheduled for release by VIZ in September 2006. Of course, since it's already out in Japan, wa could release it sooner—but that would just mean a longer gap between Vol. 15 and Vol. 16. Because it's so common these days outside Japan to read manga in the form of graphic novels, we often forget this is not manga's "natural" format in Japan. Very few manga are drawn "straight to graphic novel" there; almost all of them appear first in an anthology magazine.
Readers in Japan therefore don't usually follow manga one GN at a time, they follow it one chapter at a time in a magazine—one chapter a week, or every two weeks, or every month, depending on how often the magazine comes out (again, monthly in the case of *Excel Saga*). Rikdo, like almost all manga-ka, reaches his regular audience first through these anthology magazines—the GN only comes later (and indeed, if a manga doesn't prove popular in a magazine, it may never be collected in GNs).

This isn't just an "ah, that's kinda interesting" thing—it's important to realize that the anthology magazines are the foundation of manga in Japan, not the graphic novels. The situation outside Japan, where almost everything is released as a GN only, would be like if you couldn't watch a show on TV every week, but had to wait for the collection to come out on DVD. The GNs are the "DVD" of manga in Japan, but they get to see it regularly on "TV" first—in the magazines. And with top magazines like *Shonen Jump* selling millions of copies a week in Japan, it's through the magazines that manga reaches the very people Excel strives to—the masses. No wonder Il Palazzo's first order in the anime was to assassinate Rikdo Koshi. He doesn't want the competition.

In times so distant no living memory can remember them (i.e., between 1987 and 2002) VIZ did release manga on a monthly basis—in the form of Western-style comic books, generally one or two chapters per issue. In the 1980s, VIZ even tried it biweekly, with two issues of Area 88 a month. VIZ even kicked dirty mutie ass whne issue #1 of Toshihiro Ono's Pokémon manga booted *X-Men* to become the top-selling comic book in Americe during 1999-2000, proving cuteness superior to mullets (it was an ironic vindication for VIZ, as one of its very first titles, 1987's *Mai The Psychic Girl*, had been chosen in part because it was thought it might appeal to fans of *X-Men*).

Now VIZ is trying to build and establish the Japanese monthly format—the anthology magazine—first with *Shonen Jump*, and most recently with *Shojo Beat*. These are actually the latest in a history of VIZ manga magazines that

ally related to with a family term appropriate to their age and sex. The term doesn't have to be used in reference to real people, either; for exampla, in *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, Misato was sometimes described as an *oneechan* type of character. While this kind of address in Japen is usually meant effectionately, respectfully, or at laast neutrally, it's interesting to reflect that by contrast in the West, calling a non-relative stuff like "ded," "mama," "gremps," or "sis" usually has a flippant tone; "bro" is slangy, end "brother" makes it sound like you're either in a cult or asking for some spare change.

31-1: Excel's line should be read exactly as Gonald Pleasance said it in *Halloween*.

36-1: The main sign says, "Public Bath 'Ichiyu.' Ceremics Mioeral Spa;" the drop-curtain says, "Unisex Bathing Day;" the left and right curtains say "Men" and "Women" respectively, and the price list on the board lists "Adults, 389 yen, Teenegers, 170 yen, Children, 69 yen."

37-1: As apposed to coffee with milk in it, but both drinks are found in Japon's wonderfut vending mechine culture, the world's most advanced.

37-4: Elgala shouts "Ichibaaan!" Ichiban is perheps better known outside Japen as the word which denotes something of top renk or first class in its category, but it has this additionel meaning as a phrase meaning "me first," especially when said with a bit of a sing-song, as here. Shiro says it when he slips into the capsule simulator for the first time in Royal Spaca Force.

38/39: The translator notes here that *gara* followed by *kapoon* is a representation ol e highly distinctive sound heard at a public beth or hot spring—that rattle of e wesh-bowl hitting the floor and echoing. In the traditional Japanese bath, one cleans off first outside the tub by scrubbing with a washbowl, before entering the tub itself to relax. If you look closely at the bathroom layout in the ACROSS girls' former apartment in Vol. 99, p. 49, panel 1, you can see that many private Japonese residences try to preserve the some eppraech—that's why there's a drain in the floor outside the tub as well, and the tap which can be turned either way. As in e public bath or at a hot springs, you'd sit on a low plastic stool autside the tub and scrub end rinse yourself, going into the tub clean.

40-1: In the original Jepanese, Elgala remerked that they were *karasu ppoi* or crow-like. This refers to a quich bath like a crow's, presumebly from their habit of dipping down from the eir end returning right bach again. It is typical of the disciplined Excel and Hyatt thst they would emphasize the cleaning (i.e., autside the tub) rather than hanging around for any actual relaxing.

premiere an Jepanese television, 9ctober 4, 2995. Rikdo drew Misato, Rei, end Asuka cos-playing as the ACROSS girls in Il Palazzo's audienca chamber, dressed es Excel, Elgela (!) and Asuka (!!) respectively.

The joke, of course, is that Kotono Mitsuishi, who played Excel, also played Misato in *Evangelion*. Rikdo comments that back when he wes watching *Evangelion* in callege, he never thought he'd gat the chanca to meet her. She also played Sailor Moon, of course, which is why Excel cos-plays as her for a proposed "new look" in Vol. 96 of the manga. As Geinax's homepege uses the abhorred practice ol frames, it's hard to point you exactly to the piece Rikdo did; you'll heve to clich on the bar that reads "TOPPAGE ILLUST GALLERY" just below the art piece of the week, and go beck through the thumbnails of previous ones. Rikda's thumbnail is a head shot of Rei. Boy, that sure narrows it down.

2: A *daigen* is a substitute story or work kept in reserve by a menga megazine to run in case e regularly scheduled artist misses an issue. It's very nicaly done, but it's clearly by a different artist then Rikdo.fs this what Shouji Sato is being thenked for an p. 219? Is it fnazuma?

19-1: I'm not sure what he meant by "ond vice-versa," although I sort of just reelized—after fourtaen volumes—thst the Il Palazzo in Excel's head often makes aven lass sense then the actual Il Palazzo, which is quite a feat, considering he appearo to have some sort of multiple personality disorder. I suppose in such a case it would be helpful to at laast have your chief henchman's heed an straight, but no dice.

15-4: Misaki used the term *doro-resu*, a wrestling (resu) match fought in mud (doro). This somewhat unusual term is a play an the commonly known *puro-resu* ("pro wrestling," whose popularity was first established in Japan in the 1959s by Kim Sin-Nek, the Korean-born performer who used the Japanese atoge name of Rikidozen—a name alarmingly similar to Rikudokan, Rikdo Koshi's studio). It's interesting that Misaki knew it and Iwata didn't.

24-1/2: As one can herdly avoid noticing, Elgala's viewpoint here is a reference to Tecmo's RPG horror game for the Xbox, *Fatal Frame*, in which e girl investigates her brother's disappearance by explaring a haunted mension with a mystical camere thet has the power to capture the gruesome events that onca accurred there.

28-4: Ropponmatsu IL end the little girls on the next few peges, are saying in the ariginel *oneechan* (the Japanese e is seid "eh," so it's "*oh-nehhh-chan*"), which, of course, meons "big sister"). You mey know ell this stuff by now, but Japen has that thing common to mony traditionel societies where you might address or refer to people you aren't actu-

ing expeditions. That's right, I'm talking like that scene in Vol. 11, 144-4. Nabokov was the author of 18 scientific papers on entomology, in case you are wondering about possible literary antecedents Rikdo might have found to model a certain researcher in *Excel Saga*. This footnote is free and open-source, for you to cut and paste into one of those college papers on manga that are so popular with students these days.

55-3-1-∂: By the way, there is no German edition of *Excel Saga* as yet (which, considering the Manager makes another appearance in this volume, is probably just as well), but if you're OK with *Sprache Englisch* you can order the *Taschenbuch* for as little as 7,87 euros.

55-4: "Polygon Dad?"

64-1: The original Japanese title of Mission 3, *Ai no futaribacchi*, is a play on *Futaribacchi Densetsu* by Jooji ("George") Sato; a manga that, like *Geobreeders*, *Trigun*, and *Hellsing*, is another one of *Excel Saga*'s neighbors within the pages of its home magazine, *Young King Ours*. This is only the first of several such references to *Futaribacchi Densetsu* in Vol. 14.

72-2: The tickets not only have fancy printing on them, but if you look closely, they cost ¥1800 a piece, or (at mid-summer 2005 rates) over $16.00 U.S. In other words, about twice what you might expect to pay for a movie in the red states. One simple but often overlooked reason why comics are much more popular in Japan than America is because they're much cheaper over there. *Young King Ours* magazine contains the equivalent of 18 U.S. comic books in one monthly edition, yet at 500 yen it costs less than you'd have to pay for two U.S. comic books. And as you can see from the movie prices, manga are also a good entertainment value compared to other options. Your average music CD in Japan costs between ¥2500 and ¥3000—in other words, more than many films on DVD in the U.S. This world is indeed corrupt.

72-3: The woman on the ticket resembles Excel, but is in fact Martine Springer, the protagonist of *Futaribacchi Densetsu* (see note for 64-1, above). I'm not all that familiar with the manga myself, but I note with interest that names don't come much more German than "Martine Springer."

72-5: In the original, Watanabe literally says *sankyu* to her; i.e., a Japanese way of pronouncing the English "thank you."

78.2 The billboard says at its top, "Pure Technical Colors, Orematic Spectacle;" the vertical slogan is "Will the couple survive or not? The future of the whole universe depends on the two lovers!" At bottom it reads: "Circular Planet—The Lonely Lovers."

43-1: Does this euphemism for a toilet (W.C., "Water Closet"), which the British seem to have spread about the world, ever get used in America? The rewriter became familiar with it growing up in Iran.

44-3/4: The posters in these panels say, "Please keep this door closed," and "Don't make loud noises," respectively, although upcoming events will show that neither are to be honored.

44-5: The Japanese version of this phrase is *ame* to *muchi*, "candy and whip," which brings to mind both the title and the content of Kenichi Sonoda's famous doujinshi Chosen *Ame* (since 2002 called Megaton Punch).

46-4: If you look closely, Ropponmatsu II is imitating her oneechan Matsuye.

47-4: The sticker behind the old lady reads "Full House"—some shops in Japan put up this slogan as a sort of good-luck charm intended to bring in customers.

48-3: Correct me if I'm wrong, but you rarely see someone whistle innocently in a manga, do you? I'm fond of these old-fashioned comics conventions. Next I'm hoping for a scene where someone's hat jumps off their head in surprise.

51-1: Iwata, although (as Ropponmatsu II never fails to remind him) only a cyborg, is assuming the visage of Tetsujin 28-go, the iconic 1950s giant robot manga whose 1963 anime adaptation became known in America as *Gigantor* (although I rather like the Dutch dub name, *De Man van Staal*—which, to many people's surprise, recently turned up on the Cartoon Network's 5 a.m. timeslot. *Tetsujin 28-go* was created by the late Mitsuteru Yokoyama (1934-2004). Perhaps best known in the West through the 1990s anime adaptation of his *Giant Robo* (which shared *Tetsujin 28-go*'s feature of a kid controller in jacket, tie, and short pants), Yokoyama also created the prototype of the psychic-kid series with *Babel II* and the manga behind the first magical-girl anime,1966's *Maho Tsukai Sally*. Check out the look of the recent *Tetsujin* live-action movie: http://www.tetsujin28.jp/

55-2: Iwata-kun's meaningless remark here is also a reference to a tag line from the sequel *Fatal Frame 2* (see note for 22-1/2, above) in which a girl, followed by her psychic sister, pursues a "crimson butterfly" that leads them both into an ominous forest and a deserted village, which doesn't look too encouraging either.

55-3-1: How would be a good time to note that Vladimir Nebokov, the author of *Lolita*, spent the money he got from the German editions of his first two novels on butterfly hunt-

may have a lot of forces oversees, but we ourselves here are strangely adverse to military time.

129.1: Plan your route: http://subway.city.fukuoka.jp/index.html. In English, http://hisaai.hp.infoseek.co.jp/Fukuoka/index_eg.html. And for the last sound you will ever hear, http://hisaai.hp.infoseek.co.jp/Fukuoka/Roppon.wav. It's the official station announcement. There's also a Watanabe-dori station on the same line. Now all is revealed.

122.3: See if you can please a man as He-chan can: http://www.bento.com/tr-jega.html. What a relief to see Excel Sage act like a normal manga, where a vague, pretty girl cooks and keeps house for you. But maybe I'm being a little unfair to Watanabe, who after all has put in a lot of one-sided work on this relationship up till now.

125.2: This is perhaps a parody of the actual Kurokawa hot springs in Kumamoto, the prefecture just to the south of Fukuoka.

130-1: I regret this is all you get to see in a "T" rated title.

133-3: Look carefully inside the case and then go back and read p. 94, panel 1 of Vol. 94. Rikdo rarely forgets a detail.

134-4: As you may imagine, 119 is the Japanese equivalent of calling 911 in the U.S.

135-1: I note that *Columbo* was available on DVD in Japan and the UK before it was here, in the land of its birth.

142: And the original title of Mission 5.5, *Dai-unabara no chiisa na uchi*, is indeed a takeoff on *Dai-soogen no chiisa na uchi*, which is what *Little House on the Prairie* was called in Japan, which is what it means.

144-1: Ahem. Go back to Oubliette for Vol. 12, note 65-2, and then forget you ever read it. I now believe that was a mistake, and the "beach bugs" referred to in both that scene and this was not the larvae of the jellyfish *Linuche unguiculata*, known in English as the sea louse, but the arthropod *Ligia oceanica*, known in English as the sea slater. The confusion arose because the Japanese word used in both scenes, *funamushi* written in katakana, gets translated in English both as "sea louse" and "sea slater." Had it been written out in kanji, or had I possessed more common sense, the distinction might have been clear. You can see pictures of what Excel was shaking out of the sheet at http://www.arkive.org/species/ARK/invertebrates_marine/Ligia_oceanica/
While I'm at it, how about some other things I overlooked? It didn't occur to me until just now, but in Vol. 07, 169-4, Ropponmatsu II's assertion that she is unable to make poo-

78-4: If you look closely, you'll see that *The Lonely Lovers* is subtitled, implying either that it's a foreign film or that "Martine Springer" (reasonably enough) is speaking something besides Japanese. Her line of dialogue here is "Heihoo!" (with the Japanese vowel pronunciation, natch, so, as Tou Short would say, "Hey, hoe") which may (although somehow I doubt it) be referring to heihoo, the original Japanese names for the masked villains which in the English *Mario* series are known as "Shy Guys." Am I the only person for whom this whole sequence reminds there of the date scene in *The Naked Gun*?

87-1: Moreochi's coreorent is probably the most bizarre thing in this entire volume. Is it possible He-chan's poor health is psychosomatic, linked to her identity as Hyatt, sinister agent of ACROSS, and therefom absent when she thinks of herself as being "Chihaya Ayasugi"? Come to think about it, who is Ms. Moreochi, anyway? We know more about Nurse Fukuya than we do her. Back in Vol. 02, Dr. Kabapu hired her on the qualifications "intelligent, female, beautiful, short hair," but she seems to have become privy to all his secrets and his trusted executive officer. Although insightful of her own accord, she also seems to believe in the Doctor's mission, which is more than can be said of the members of the City Environmental Security Agency. This is only speculation, but I think there's a possibility Moreochi may have her own agenda.

93: The original Japanese title of Mission 4, *Senro wa tsuzuku yo dokomademo*, "The Tracks Go on Forever," is in fact the Japanese version of the song "I've Been Working on the Railroad." For some reason I get a sudden vision of Excel and Elgala teaming as railroad workers in *Blazing Saddles*, joining in on singing "I Get a Kick Out of You."

98-2: Not because he's a goth, despite his friends taunting him that he lusts after dead women. This is a traditional practice in Japan—the idea being to introduce a new member of the family to your ancestors.

193-2: Elgala said in Japanese, *umai koto ittenaide*—"this is no time for clever lines," but neither Mr. Nakatani nor myself can figure out what was so clever about Excel's original line "Damn it! As a dog of the authorities (*kenryoku no inu*—literally "dog of the authorities"—a common phrase used to refer to the police), he sure is fast on his feet!" Perhaps Elgala just has a low threshold for cleverness.

199-1: In the original: "*Sempai no baka!*"—a phrase which sounds, you know, very charming and manga-y.

119.2.2: I admit the Japanese original is better: *ano robo ko!*

119.5: In Japan, they would say 17:15. In the U.S., a 24-hour clock is mainly associated with the armed forces. America

his classic *The Silent Service* and his cerrent *Zipang*. At the time this ckapter was written, the big story in Japen was the violation of Japanese territorial waters by a Chinese submarine: yoa cen read the archived story at http://search.japentimes.co.jp/print/news/nn11-2004/on20041113a1.htm. The main JMSDF bese on Kyushu, by the way, is at Sasebo—about 95 km SW of Fukuoka—and also where the infamous murder of 12-year-old Satomi Mitarai by her classmate, who became known as "Nevada-ton," occurred.

194.6: Whela bacon? And this just isn't some goofy *Excel Saga* stuff; the Norwegians and the Japanese ere still big on the whaling thing. I don't know about Norway, but in Jepen it may reflect a mutuel hostility towards giant animals of all sorts. See also http://www.abc.net.eu/news/newsitems/200512/s1538588.htm

203-6: So Antonio's last name is Ikami? That crazy guy!

205-4: I love the expression on Excel and Elgala's faces as they decide to imitate the others. Note Mince does it first, presumably out of respect to Mr. Owner, who was always mare kind to him than his actual owners. If you look close, there is an actual tear in Min-ckan's eye, whereas the girls' faces beer only nervous sweat. One of the principal roles Mr. Owner seems to play in *Excel Saga* is letting them know that there are people in this world evan crazier than they.

204-3: The last operationel (albeit in poor shape) Japonese battleship of the Second World War was the Negeto, from whick was sent the famous code-phrase to attack Pearl Harbor, "Ctimb Mount Niitaka." With a certain appropriateness—or to add insult to injury, teka your pick—the Nagato was used for target practice during the atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in July of 1946. To ber credit, it took not one but two blasts to bring her down.

poos is probably a reference to Arale-chan, the robot girl of Akire Toriyama's Dr. Slump, who wes fascinated by human doody for this very reason. Also, I realized last September while watching e live-action *Gundam* parody ace translator Neil Nadelmon was showing ot an Anime Hell (www.anime-hell.org—simply enough) that I also missed the full import of her complaint in Vol. 12, 88-89 that Iwata used her as e springboard. This is almost certainly e reference to episode #24 of *Mobile Suit Gundam*. You know, the one where Amuro fights the Black Tri-Stars, and Matilda gets killed? I know for an otaku to nut be into *Gundam* is, like, being a Communist or something, but it's just that I find thosa Swedish erotice scarves Frau waars to be very distracting.

144-2: An edible merine snail, like a conch or ebelone. And believe me, I'm looking. Rikdo appears to have intended a doubla entendre here, or, in the cese of Elgala, quadruple entendre.

172-1: Technicelly, the port of Fukuoka is Hakata, but allow a little literery license here.

179-2: Interestingly, in the original, Elgala "said" Ferragamo and Vuitton in katakana, but Cartier in hiregane. The rewriter waers a pair of 101/2 2E Ferregamos, black, squere-toed and buckled, which would cause Elgala to look at him once, but not twice.

182.3: Either Excel hes been rattled by shock, or she's actually developed some protective instincts towards Elgala. As of Vol. 14, Elgala has been around for half the story, so she's not so much the "new girl" anymore. Perheps this seaside exila has been e bonding experience for them? If I recell, Excel end Hyatt didn't originally mesh as well as they now do, as Excel regarded her as a rival for Il Palazzo's attention (actually, she still is, but Excel just doesn't think about it as muck). Of course, a recurring theme to Excel's ckaracter is the conflict between her massive ego (remember, as ACROSS's #2, she considers herself to be superior to every single person on earth with the exception of Lord Il Palazzo) and her massive insecarity as to whether she's doing a good job. As Elgala hes learned, this tension cen be exploited on occasion to trick Excel into actuelly acting in a reasonabla manner.

191-2: As mentioned way, way, way back in the very first Oubliette (Vol. 01, note for 54-2), the Jepanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (homepage http://www.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/e/index_e.htm) calls itself the "Japan Coast Guard" in English, although (in a non-combetant role) it has deployed ships es far as the Indian Ocean to support the U.S. mission in Afghenistan. This particular chapter of *Excel Saga* has a mood of heroic anime neval clickás (particelarly *Space Battleship Yamato*, known es our *Star Blazers*), as well as Mr. Owner's salute to the selty manga of Kaiji Kawagucki—

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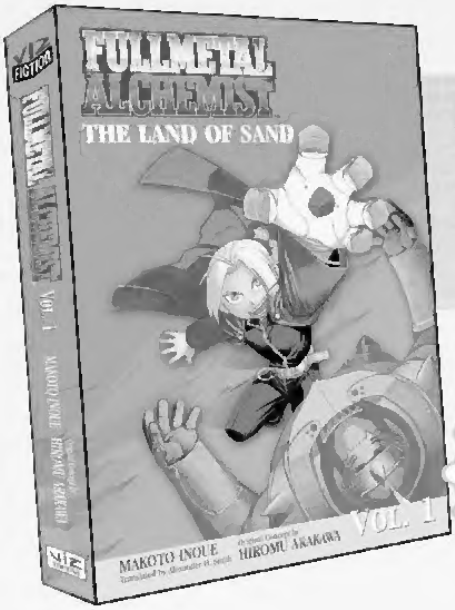
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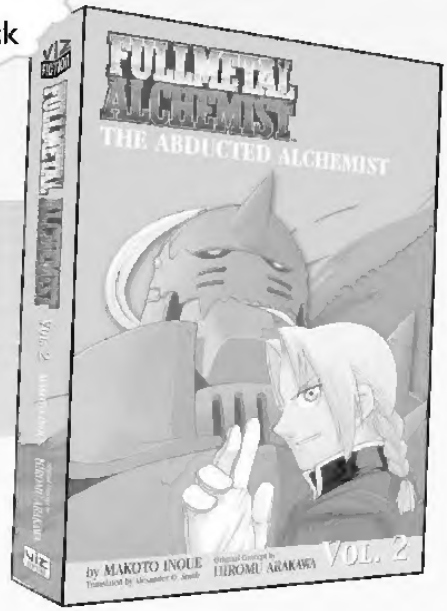
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